



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Garden Group Scouts Out Help From Volunteers

The Local Library Is Literally Greening

By Corrie M. Anders

Ordinarily, this is the time of year when most Noe Valley gardeners would be shucking their leather-palm gloves, stashing the shears in the tool shed, and settling back to await next spring's call to plant.

That's hardly the case at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library.

One weekend last month, a cadre of stooped volunteers spent several hours weeding, planting, and laying the base for a gravel garden pathway outside the library at 451 Jersey Street.

Their sweat labor was the latest phase in a yearlong effort to transform several patches of abandoned terrain in the library's back yard into a verdant oasis for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Cause of Death Along Tracks Still Unclear

Man Identified as Longtime Noe Valley Resident

By Tim Innes

One minute Bill Nelson was exiting the Muni streetcar and walking beside it toward the corner of 22nd and Church streets. The next, he was found lying by the tracks, with injuries that would soon claim his life.

What happened to William Joseph Nelson, 58, on the morning of Sept. 10

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Local Filmmaker Explores Unusual World of Musical Genius 'Trimpin'

By Lorraine Sanders

Sometimes a filmmaker's biggest challenge takes place before the cameras even start rolling. Such was the case for local documentary producer and filmmaker Peter Esmonde, who set out in 2005 to find the most genre-defying, mind-blowing, genius-wielding creative subject he could, for what would eventually become his first feature-length film, *Trimpin: The Sound of Invention*, screening this month at the Mill Valley Film Festival and the San Francisco DocFest.

"In a culture that values money, efficiency, productivity, and celebrity, I wanted to find an artist for whom the craft is the most important. I needed to find that person at that point in my life," says Esmonde, who studied film at Yale University and the American Film Institute Conservatory and has spent a decade working



If this year's Halloween is anything like last year's, parades of peace-loving pirates, happy wraiths, and good witches will be trolling 24th Street all day.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

How to Raise Hay At the Oct. 24 Harvest Festival

By Olivia Boler

The fifth annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival, the neighborhood entry in San Francisco's street fair sweepstakes, will be ripe for fun on Saturday, Oct. 24. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., revelers young and old will pour onto 24th Street, which will be closed to traffic from Church to Sanchez streets.

If you've been to the fest in the past, you'll see some familiar attractions: the horse-drawn wagon on 24th Street, kids and pets in costume, a stilt walker, jugglers, live music at two stages, and more than 60 booths filled with arts and crafts.

There also will be a few new treats,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Eureka Street resident Peter Esmonde has produced a documentary about artist/composer Trimpin that is touring film festivals throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

in the film industry and for such companies as PBS and the Discovery Channel.

As it turned out, finding the right subject wasn't the hard part for Esmonde,

Haunted Happenings Around Noe Valley

By Olivia Boler

No matter what the holiday, Noe Valley is known as a playground for kids and dogs. But on Halloween, that reputation is magnified to the nth degree, when hundreds—maybe thousands—of masked creatures can be seen scampering down the sidewalks bearing buckets of treats.

If you're like most Noe Valley parents, you are probably already under the spell of your little Dracula or Good Witch Glinda. Still, it might

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Love Eases Heartbreak After Fire on 27th Street

Family Touched by Support from Friends and Neighbors

By Tim Innes

Lisa Moresco was nearing the end of a sun-baked family vacation in Spain's Costa del Sol region when she got the first email: "Call me right away. I'm with Xander. He's OK. Debi."

The news was devastating: There had been a fire in the family's 27th Street home. The interior was a charred mess. Their clothes, furniture, and appliances were destroyed. But Moresco's 19-year-old son Alexander (Xander) and six buddies who had been sleeping over at the house were safe.

More than 60 emails would follow. In them, friends and neighbors in Noe Valley described firefighters' efforts to contain the blaze and make sure all the young men got out safely. They told of myriad acts of kindness. They offered help and support. Most of all, they expressed deep affection for a family that neighbor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Steeple at St. Paul's Get a Makeover

By Corrie M. Anders

Saint Paul's Catholic Church in Noe Valley is undergoing three months of preventive maintenance to replace the slate tiles that adorn the church's majestic twin steeples.

Work began in August to eliminate a potential safety hazard at the nearly 100-year-old sanctuary, one of the neighborhood's most notable landmarks, at Church and Valley streets.

Father Mario Farana, pastor at St. Paul's, commissioned the repairs after discovering that some of the heavy tiles were "starting to come off" the sharply pitched spires.

"The steeples are essentially in good shape," said Farana, the church's pastor since 1993. "But the slates could be a

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City Attorney
Dennis Herrera



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Jose Cisneros

CITY PROPOSITIONS

A – YES – Budget Process Amendment

B – No Recommendation – Board of Supervisors Aides

C – YES – Candlestick Park Naming Rights

D – YES – Mid-Market Special Sign District

E – NO – Advertisements on City Property

The Noe Valley Democratic Club generally meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St. at Elizabeth. Call 415 641-5838 for meeting times and location.

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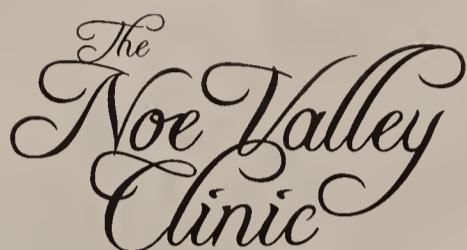
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43 Clifford Terrace



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156 Grattan Street



Beautiful Renovated Home In Ashbury Heights. This 2BD/2BA home is located on a charming tree-lined street in Cole Valley. Features include a living room with coved ceilings and wood burning fireplace, a formal dining room and chef's kitchen.

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Adrian Stevens (415) 321-4334

178 27th Street



Noe Valley Jewel. 3BD/2BA home. Contemporary architecture with classic traditional floor plan. The main floor has a real cook's bistro kitchen that opens to an enchanting garden. The modern second floor addition with an open staircase has fabulous space. 1 car garage.

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444 Collingwood



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136 27th Street



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263 Mullen Avenue



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82 Lippard



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Noe Valley Office Agents: We'd be delighted to talk to you about properties in this neighborhood!



Caitlin Brown



William Coleman



Don Gable



Erkan Gozum



Jamie Howell



Jane Ivory



Ginger Karel



Tasneem Karimhai



Beth Kershaw



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Debra Lee



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L. Flick Hatcher

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Tom



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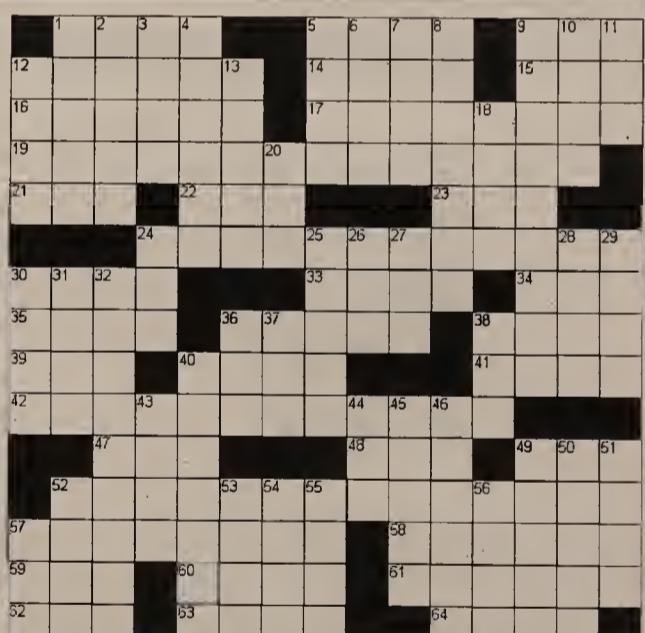
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CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

24th Street Capitalism

ACROSS

- Palindromic Indian bread
- "You said it, sister!"
- First-aid box
- Christie's Hercule
- "Monster" lizard
- "Where did ____ wrong?"
- Equipment for Ansel Adams
- Put one's faith in
- Drinking establishment of the Irish capital?
- Lithuania or Estonia, once: Abbr.
- Tofu base
- Boston hockey great Bobby
- Literary hangout of the Arizonan capital?
- Ready and willing partner
- "...____ saw Elba" (famous palindrome)
- Geller with a spoon-bending act
- Harvest
- Rubbernecks
- Has ____: has connections
- Bouncer's requests, for short
- Pie à la ____
- Retailer's goods: Abbr.
- Shoe store of the Moroccan capital?
- Crime boss
- Prefix with -lexic
- Half a sch. year
- Kind of crime it would be to infringe on the names of the 24th Street merchants in this puzzle
- "And may you have ____" (birthday)



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| toast) | Frankenstein" | 43. Thicker than stringy |
| 58. Author of "Little Women" | 11. Large amount | 44. Flurry of activity |
| 59. Arrow's path | 12. Pie chart data, briefly | 45. To a considerable degree |
| 60. Golden rule word | 13. Forbidden | 46. Pancake simile |
| 61. Very enthusiastic | 18. Longest river in Spain | 49. Keep others awake at night, maybe |
| 62. "Golly!" | 20. Caustic chemical | 50. "¿Cómo ____?" |
| 63. Army chow | 24. Kind of rally where 60-Across might be heard | 51. 'Speed' drug |
| 64. "Little piggies" | 25. More modern | 52. Give a darn |
| 39. Bouncer's requests, for short | 26. Annoy | 53. "At the sound of the ____" |
| 40. Pie à la ____ | 27. Crosses (out) | 54. Companion of crafts |
| 41. Retailer's goods: Abbr. | 28. Singer Kristofferson | 55. Most people born in August |
| 42. Shoe store of the Moroccan capital? | 29. Trig function | 56. Canyon effect |
| 43. Crime boss | 30. Diva's song | 57. "SI" or "GQ" |
| 48. Prefix with -lexic | 31. Garden plots | |
| 49. Half a sch. year | 32. What you should "save...for me" in a 1960 #1 hit | NOTE: The Voice Crossword, including all past puzzles, is now available at www.noevalleyvoice.com . |
| 52. Kind of crime it would be to infringe on the names of the 24th Street merchants in this puzzle | 33. Demeanor | |
| 57. "And may you have ____" (birthday) | 34. Model Macpherson | |
| | 35. Kenya's capital | |
| | 36. Deity | |
| | 37. Classifieds | |
| | 38. Invoice abbr. | |
| | 40. Least possible | |

Solution on Page 45

LETTERS 44¢

The Inconvenient Truth

Editor:

Our community has lost its recycling center, formerly located in the Bell Market parking lot. Now I have to pay carfare to cart my bottles and cans down to a recycling center at Market Street, near the Safeway store. It's inconvenient.

The Whole Foods store representative assured us at a meeting that they would provide curbside recycling. When I recently inquired at their office on 24th Street, I found out there is not going to be a person to collect recycling at the Whole Foods parking lot.

A machine programmed to read CRV labels and bar codes will be substituted. It selectively accepts some cans and bottles, and rejects others. Flattened or crushed cans and bottles are not accepted.

I hardly consider this recycling method a "green solution" to our community's recycling needs.

Folks who bring a volume of flattened material for recycling will not be able to use the machine. We will have to keep using transportation—spend money on carfare or use gas and pollute the planet—to bring our recycling to locations outside Noe Valley. Also, there are some in our community who rely on the extra cash generated from recycling and are unable to travel outside Noe Valley with recycling materials.

The truth is inconvenient, and Whole Foods needs to rethink their policy to serve our community's needs, instead of just touting their corporate "green" philosophy.

Anastasia Yovanopoulos
24th Street

Crows Come for Lunch

Editor:

The article by Tim Innes in the September 2009 issue ("A Murder of Crows, or Requiem for a Featherweight") highlighted the problem of the large number of carnivorous birds like crows and ravens, but didn't get to the source of the problem.

The ravens and crows in San Francisco have exploded in numbers because people feed them, and also because of available food in open garbage cans. The raven feeders can be seen (often early in the morning) in Golden Gate Park and at Ocean Beach, surrounded by large numbers of birds. These feeders think that they are doing a kindness, but the end result is a population imbalance, lots of crows and ravens, and few songbirds.

Feeding wildlife—whether it is coyotes, raccoons, crows, ravens, pigeons, geese, ducks, or other animals—is simply not a good idea.

Pam Hemphill
Hill Street

Invaluable Gifts

Editor:

Our family was struck by tragedy, and in its remains we found invaluable gifts, immeasurable love, and a deep spiritual journey. While my husband Gerry and I and two of our children were traveling in Spain this summer, our Noe Valley home caught fire. (See story on page 1 of this issue.)

My college-age son Xander and several friends were asleep in the house in the early morning hours, when flames originating in the sauna triggered an alarm. The teens, shoeless and many in boxers, fled the house safely. Eight fire engines arrived. What remained was very little of our home. When we returned, we were unable to come back to 27th Street, where many of our most treasured possessions lay in ruins.

Still, we are thankful.

We have lived and worked in Noe Valley for over 15 years and are deeply thankful for the talent and dedication of the San Francisco Fire Department. We are thankful for our many friends and neighbors who on the day of the fire rallied to comfort the boys, took the necessary steps to secure the house along with the Fire Department, carted out and stored away many salvageable valuables, and supported Xander until our return.

We returned to an overwhelming and heartfelt outreach. The support, help, and love we received became a mighty and transcendent force.

Noe Valley is a special community and we look forward to moving back soon.

Lisa Moresco and Family
27th Street



LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email editor@noealleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.



Photos by Pamela Gerard



24th Street Whole Foods Opens

After more than seven months without a major grocery store, large crowds of Noe Valley shoppers greeted the Sept. 30 opening of Whole Foods Market on 24th Street. San Francisco beat police officer Lorraine Lombardo estimated 200 or so locals—and three protesters—watched the breaking of an eight-foot-long sourdough bread loaf that subbed for the traditional ribbon-cutting. An invitation-only preview party five days earlier also drew throngs to the store, which Angela Lorenzen will manage. More than a few people at the opening were in a "quandary" because of the widely publicized anti-health-care stance of Whole Foods chief executive John Mackey. San Francisco supervisor and mayoral candidate Bevan Dufty told the crowd he had sent Mackey a letter urging him to "consider alternative views as you seek to expand your work in our great city." J Sanchez Street resident Leslie Willbaum expressed similar sentiment as she manned a makeshift protest table on the sidewalk in front of Whole Foods. But Willbaum acknowledged, "Noe Valley is not going to boycott this place. We've been waiting too long." —Corrie M. Anders

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The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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A Refuge from The Road

City Tries Out a Mini-Park Where Guerrero Meets San Jose Avenue

By Heather World

Neighborhood moxie and city initiative have turned a confusing patch of roadway at the southeastern edge of Noe Valley into a plant-filled mini-park.

"Guerrero Park" opened last month for a two-month trial, and already parents with children, St. Luke's Hospital visitors, and coffee lovers are stopping by to sit and enjoy the flowers. Protected from the roadway by a barrier made of five-foot-tall steel tubes and tree stumps, the 11,000-square-foot plaza is surprisingly peaceful.

"People have been enjoying it in the evening with their kids and with dogs," says neighbor Will Reichmann, who lives on San Jose Avenue directly overlooking the new park.

According to neighborhood activist Gillian Gillett of the San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets, a pedestrian-friendly public space has long been needed to replace the concrete triangle at the intersection of Guerrero, 28th Street, and San Jose Avenue. She says more than a few drivers traveling north on San Jose Avenue have smashed into cars and buildings at 28th Street while trying to decide whether to curve onto the beginning of Guerrero Street or head straight on the spur that ends San Jose Avenue.

The mini-park closes off that spur, which is now accessible only by turning right on the next block, Duncan Street.

"You rationalize the intersection by sending visual cues to the drivers," says Gillett. "You create a public space, and you calm the traffic."

The new mini-park is part of a city initiative called Pavement to Parks, modeled on a similar program in New York City. Initiated by the mayor's office, the program is run by the Planning Department. About 12 projects are scheduled to open this year.

Construction on Guerrero Park started in August and was completed the week after Labor Day weekend.

"We're calling them outdoor laboratories," says project manager Andres Power. The spaces will evolve over time, based on what elements work. Costs are low: The city uses pro bono landscape designers and architects to create designs using surplus materials from city construction projects.



Neighbors pitch in to plant greenery at a small plaza recently created to replace the concrete triangle at Guerrero, San Jose Avenue, and 28th Street. A local cafe has also put out tables and chairs.

Photo courtesy Andres Power

For the Guerrero Park plaza, the \$20,000 price tag was paid by a \$15,000 donation from California-Pacific Medical Center/St. Luke's Hospital and a \$5,000 grant from Safeway.

Power says the city looks for donations from corporate entities that have a geographic connection to the space.

"We're looking for people who want to be good stewards," he says.

The San Jose/Guerrero Coalition itself has a history of good stewardship in the neighborhood. Neighbors dug out the concrete medians and planted trees and shrubs to more attractively divide the four-lane road.

In 2005 the group used a neighborhood improvement grant from Oakland's Metropolitan Transportation Commission to hire urban designers from a New York non-profit dedicated to improving and expanding public spaces. The Project for Public Spaces designers suggested greening the roadway and drew up plans. The Coalition published the drawings on its website, and in the summer of 2006 the design shared a San Francisco Street Renaissance award with the Octavia Boule-

vard/Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association.

"This idea was wildly popular," Gillett says.

The city liked it, too. Pavement to Parks sites are partly chosen based on a history of community involvement, thereby building on existing planning efforts or neighborhood visions, Power says.

"That's what allows us to go quickly," he says.

The San Jose/Guerrero Plaza took about three months to build. Landscape architect Jane Martin created a border with the stainless steel tubes (former air-duct tubing from the Joe DiMaggio clubhouse in North Beach), which were bolted to the ground and filled with plants. Logs from fallen trees in Golden Gate Park were joined together and planted with excess shrubbery from the park's nursery.

Cup o' Java, a cafe across Guerrero Street, now brings over bistro chairs at 6 a.m. and takes them back at 10 p.m., says Lorena Olivas, who works at the cafe. A half-dome climbing wall for children and WiFi for the adults are in the works.

Gillett also hopes to get tai chi classes organized for Sunday mornings.

As for car noise, Gillett says she guesses most people won't choose to be in the plaza during morning and evening rush hours. The area is quiet by city standards the rest of the day, she says.

Meanwhile, she believes cars are already being calmed. "It's obvious when you're here that traffic is slowing down."

Like all Pavement to Parks projects, the site has an initial two-month permit with an option to extend four months, Power says.

"There's a series of checks in which we'll go back to neighbors and talk about what might need to change, what works well," he says. "The idea is for the space to evolve over time." ■



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Teens Lend a Hand In Library Garden Restoration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

birds and bees and, of course, humans.

The garden, which went to seed after the branch was closed in February 2006 for two years of seismic renovations, is 75 percent complete. The work will continue through the end of the year.

One of the volunteer gardeners, Lisa Erdos, was surprised when she first saw the outdoor space late last year.

"The entire area was full of weeds," she said. "There were three redwood tables that looked ancient, and there were some old planter boxes that were rotten and pretty disheveled."

The notion of redoing the landscaping originally cropped up in November, when two stalwart friends of the library, 24th Street resident Eleanore Gerhardt and Kim Drew of Duncan Street, pulled together an ad hoc group of professional and neophyte gardeners. They included Chris Weiss, a landscape architect, who drew up design and architectural plans; Jonathan Silverman, who has a background in landscape construction; master gardener Barbara Cohrsen; gardener Tuck Johnson, and Erdos, who took up gardening after losing her job of 30 years.

The group, calling itself the Noe Valley Library Garden Group, got busy. So far, the volunteers have filled the library's east and west yards with more than nine dozen plants of drought-tolerant flowers, dwarf fruit trees, ornamental plants, herbs, and vegetables.

Much of the fresh foliage resides in two raised planter boxes that were built by Boy Scouts from Noe Valley and Japantown. The scouts also constructed picnic-style tables and benches.

"I was really impressed with the Boy Scouts," said library branch manager Alice McCloud. The work counted towards the teens' leadership requirements to become Eagle Scouts, the club's highest rank.

Scout Ryan Joe of Japantown's Troop 12 in April took on the project of clearing weeds from the overgrown grounds and building a 9-by-12-foot planter box. On a different assignment, troopmate Connor Wong helped build three redwood tables and two new redwood benches.

The civic project also attracted Castro Street teenager Brian Furney, a scout with Troop 88 in the Forest Hill neighborhood and a senior at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School. A Noe Valley native, Furney has been going to the branch library for as long as he can remember.

"I knew the library was doing some renovations, and so I stopped by one day," said Furney, 17. A staffer directed him to the garden club.

Furney had no construction skills. But he pulled together six fellow scouts, several adults, and built an L-shaped, 16-by-8 planter box over two days in July.

Because of budget cuts, the library



Rotting planter boxes and terraces overrun with vegetation were what greeted neighborhood volunteers last spring when they set out to spruce up the garden behind the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street.

Photo by June Wong

branch had not been able to help finance the garden restoration. Furney raised funds on his own. For several hours on July 4 weekend, he manned a table at the 24th Street Farmers Market, seeking donations to purchase supplies. At the end, he'd collected \$379 to pay for wood, bolts, screws, and other materials.

"I was very surprised, very pleasantly surprised," he said about the donations. "It was pretty amazing."

The city's Recreation and Park Department has also been supportive, said Drew. "They've allowed us to go into the city nursery in Golden Gate Park and to have our pick of plants," she said. The donations "saved us having to do any significant fundraising."

Last spring, garden clubbers picked up 75 plants, mostly shrubs and trees. And "just last month, we went over and picked out another 40 or 50 plants," said Drew.

Silverman, a naturalist and an organic farmer, provided pots of kale, beets, lettuce, and other cool-season vegetables, which the group planted last month. But no one is quite sure who is going to harvest or enjoy the vegetables.

"The actual plan wasn't to put vegetables there," said Drew. "The goal for the garden was really to have it be drought-tolerant, low maintenance, low water, low everything so that it's beautiful, it's native, and it attracts birds and bees—but does not require a big effort to keep it up."

While not complete, the library deck and garden space is open to the public. Visitors, however, should use caution because the wooden fence along the south wall is unstable and guarded with yellow tape.

"It's really in bad shape, an eyesore, and a safety hazard," said Drew. Both the library and the rec department know about it and are "very eager to fix it as well, but it's a matter of finding the budget to fix it."

Over the next two months, the garden club volunteers plan to continue their work, and finish the gravel pathway.



Over the summer, Ryan Joe (top photo) and Brian Furney (bottom, left) built benches and planter boxes as part of their work toward Eagle Scout badges.



In September, the drought-tolerant plants in the newly installed boxes were beginning to show signs of growth. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

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Annual Harvest Fest Shares Its Bounty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

says Kathy White, fair organizer and a member of the all-volunteer Noe Valley Association, which sponsors the festival along with dozens of local businesses and residents groups.

"We want to incorporate some things for older children," White says. "To that end, there will be two jumpy houses this year, one with a slide or other kind of feature that will appeal to older kids."

Jumpy? Pay a Dollar

The jumpy houses, face-painting, pumpkin patch, caricaturist, and balloon artist will all be on Vicksburg Street, and this year you'll need tickets to participate. These will cost \$1 and can be purchased at the information booth near the main stage at 24th and Church streets or at a ticket stand on Vicksburg. White says the activities cost one ticket each, and "the monies raised go towards entertainment for the festival. Any additional proceeds are given back to the neighborhood by way of greening projects and/or benches along the 24th Street corridor."

The horse-pulled wagon, aka the hayride (although there's been very little hay in recent years that wasn't eaten by the horses), will operate from 11 a.m. to

3 p.m. Passengers can line up to giddyup on Castro Street in front of Walgreen's. The hayride is sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

Rock and Flamenco

Main-stage music, says volunteer impresario Andrew Keeler, kicks off at 10:15 a.m., with a performance by the Alphabet Rockers. Guitar riffs will make way for dance moves at 11 a.m., when the James Lick Middle School Dance Program appears. Wee the Band, a rock/pop band with female vocalists, plays at 12:15 p.m., followed by hula hoop star Stefan Serafina (1:15 p.m.). At 2 p.m., the Lovitt/Page rock band will take the stage. Then it's the flamenco dance troupe Gypsy Tease, accompanied by flamenco guitarist Ryan Garcia (3 p.m.). Go Van Gogh, describing itself as "country music, but we're not sure which country," will close out the festival at 4 p.m.

Keeler is also organizing contestants for the festival's pie-eating contest, sponsored by Noe Valley Bakery. Those who like to consume baked goods at lightning speed and in copious quantities should sign up for the 3:15 p.m. event at the main stage on Church.

Costume Contests for Kids & Dogs

If your child or pup is coming to the fair dressed for Halloween, be sure to partake in the annual costume contests. The chil-

dren's contest takes place at 11:30 a.m., and dogs will strut their stuff at 1:30 p.m. Noe Valley cartoonist and comedian Michael Capozzola will emcee the day.

One thing festival-goers might have noticed in past years is the absence of food booths. That won't change this year, as the Association hopes people will buy food at local shops or restaurants. As at previous fests, the Noe Valley Farmers Market will remain open all day, and there will be food stalls in the lot, as well as a second venue for music.

Richard Hildreth, who is on the Farmers Market board, says the "musical entertainment [will be] a diverse lineup, from the jazz/folk artist Diamond Moodie to the faithful early-20th-century jazz of the Ragtime Skedaddlers to the pièce de résistance, a group of 14-year-old girl rockers from San Francisco, the SHE's, who are really going to be something someday soon."

First-Ever Bake-Off

Another contribution from the Farmers Market will be the Noe Valley Bake-Off, a contest for local (and Market) cooks. There won't be any categories, so raid your recipe box for anything from breakfast to dessert. Noe Valley merchants Cooks Boulevard, Omnivore Books on Food, and Phoenix Books, as well as the Farmers Market, will provide prizes.

"The idea is to share our neighbors' knowledge of how they prepare the

bounty that the Noe Valley Farmers Market is known for," says Hildreth. "Everyone who shops at the Farmers Market is doing something wonderful with the produce, and it would really be something to share these recipes, not to mention the actual dishes themselves."

Always Family-Friendly

White believes the Noe Valley Harvest Festival stands out from other San Francisco street fairs because it's so family-friendly. "In my mind, the other fairs are geared toward adults, and the children are forgotten, and that's what makes ours different," she says. "A lot of items at the festival, like the bands and the arts and crafts, are geared towards the family. And the date is close to Halloween, which is all about children. They get to dress up and be crazy once a year, and that's really fun."

If you want to find out more, check out the fair's website, www.novalleyharvestfestival.com. And if you're interested in volunteering, contact White at kathyw@realestatesf.com. White says some schools will give students extra credit for volunteering, so they should check in with their teachers to find out about participating in the festival.



Nelson May Have Stumbled into Streetcar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

remains a mystery. However, police investigators believe he stumbled, fell, and was hit by the departing train.

According to a Muni statement, video from a camera aboard the light-rail vehicle shows a man believed to be the Noe Valley resident getting off a southbound S-Castro car at 9:08 a.m. and walking 20 to 30 feet beside the train until he disappeared from view. Though the video suggests that some passengers might have seen Nelson fall, Muni said no one alerted the operator, nor did the operator report hitting anything.

"We've closed the case and turned it over to the district attorney and medical examiner," said Inspector Jeff Clark of the San Francisco Police Department's Hit-and-Run Detail. "There was no criminal act; it appears to have been an accident."

As of Sept. 30, the medical examiner's office had not announced a cause of

death. Muni was conducting its own investigation.

Nelson had lived in his Sanchez Street apartment for some 25 years, according to landlord Louis Pagan. For the past 16 years, Nelson was a member of Sign and Display Local 510, helping build and install trade show exhibits at Moscone Center and other convention venues around the Bay Area.

"He was a good guy," said Josh Ende, a union field representative.

Previously, Nelson—a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., and a lifelong Pittsburgh Pirates fan—worked as a chef and hotel concierge and owned a restaurant.

Survivors include his mother, Elizabeth Nelson, of Danville, Ky., and a brother, Kenneth Nelson, of Chicago.

Services were held Sept. 17 in Danville, followed by burial in Mount Sterling, Ky.

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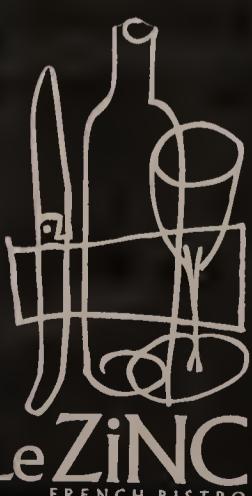
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Favorite Haunts on Halloween

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

help to know the best neighborhood spots to celebrate the festivities. Here are a few highlights of All Hallows' Eve, Noe Valley-style.

Treats on 24th Street

Generous spirits all, the Noe Valley merchants along 24th Street will be handing out candy beginning on Friday, Oct. 30, when the students from St. Philip's School march down the hill, clothed in costumes from spooky to adorable. The next day, on Halloween itself, 24th Street (and Church and Castro streets) will again be filled with spider webs and Snickers, as the stores entice trick-or-treaters from all over the city, starting at 4 or 5 p.m.

The Ark, Just for Fun, and Small Frys are among the dozens of shops on 24th that delight in filling children's bags on Halloween. Many owners and employees also have fun with their costumes. "I always get dressed up, and so do the girls who work here," says Heather Bruchs, owner of Urban Nest, on 24th near Sanchez Street. Her go-to costume? "A hot pink wig that's a foot and a half high and a hot pink dress, but I might change it up this year." Urban Nest expects to hand out a ton of chocolate and other "sweet chewy things. We go through about 10 gigantic bags," Bruchs says.

Gwen Sanderson of Video Wave says she and her staff will dress in costume and hand out candy, too, as will other Castro Street stores like Cover to Cover and Peekabootique. As a longtime member and past president of the Noe Valley Merchants Association, Sanderson knows



Our crystal ball tells us that droves of costumed kids will arrive on 24th Street come Oct. 31, and some will even wear whiskers. That's because Noe Valley's the place to see and be seen on Halloween.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

that children make a beeline for "Downtown Noe Valley." "Noe Valley is known as a safe place for families to visit on Halloween, and we get visitors from other neighborhoods, too," says Sanderson.

Free Pet Portraits

If your dog or cat insists on wearing a costume this year, stop by the Noe Valley Pet Company on the corner of Church Street and Cesar Chavez for a free Halloween pet portrait. On Oct. 31 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pet Poses Photography will be snapping photos in honor of its fifth anniversary. No appointment is necessary, and you can call 846-9983 for more information, or check out the Pet Poses website at www.petposes.biz.

Tales of Hoffman

Marilyn Lucas, the "Haunted House Lady," along with many of her neighbors along Hoffman Avenue between 24th and

Alvarado streets, will welcome trick-or-treaters from 5 to 8 p.m. on Halloween night. "Look for the haunted car parked in front," she says.

The bewitching inventor of the fun and safe Halloween, Lucas brings a "lifetime of Halloween experience" to her ghoulish activities. Each year, her creepy cottage in the 300 block of Hoffman has a new theme. This year, it will be transformed into Ratworld, featuring her mechanical rat Ratty. Says Lucas, "The little ones love it when he chases them."

If you're worried that your tyke might get too scared, Lucas assures the *Voice* there are frights in her haunted house that are "rated G. But when the older kids start to say, 'Oh, that's so phony,' or, 'That's not scary,' I kick it up a notch!"

What's up a notch?

"A walk through the gutters..." Lucas whispers, "where the skeleton of a..." (Her words were too horrible to repeat.)

As for what her neighbors are planning, Lucas says be prepared for surprises. "It gets really outrageous here," she says, noting that two of her neighbors (phantoms, no doubt) have designed sets for operas.

Lucas says the Hoffman crew will give away 200 treat bags, and there will even be little books or toys, for kids whose parents prefer they not have sugar.

Frightening Fair Oaks Street

If your intrepid trick-or-treaters cross Dolores Street to the picturesque Fair Oaks Street, they'll be sweetly rewarded.

Sherri Maurin, treasurer of Fair Oaks Neighbors, says, "We do an extraordinary Halloween celebration on Fair Oaks. We close the street [from 21st to 27th streets] in the evening, and hire older students from Jamestown Community Center, which we have supported for more than 20 years, to monitor the crossings and keep everything safe. Many homes are fully decorated, and we give out hundreds and hundreds of pieces of candy. I stopped counting at 1,500 pieces last year."

According to Fair Oaks Neighbors chair Mary Louise Beecroft, there will also be a haunted house which ghost-hunters can tour for a small fee. Festivities on Fair Oaks Street start around 5:30 p.m.

So dust off your witch's hat or Chewbacca mask and get out there with your little mermaid or pirate, Noe Valley. It's your night to cackle.

A Fun and Safe Halloween

By Marilyn Lucas,
"The Haunted House Lady"

Here in Noe Valley
A long time ago
Halloween was kinda fun
But the day went really slow

All day we sat at school
Waiting to get dressed
We were all so monstrous
In our Halloween best .

We lined up by classes
And paraded all around
But as soon as school was over
We were homeward bound

We had to eat dinner
And do our homework
It's fun to get ready
But it's still a lot of work

Candies in the bowl
Witches in the window
Lights on the porch
Goblins in the kitchen

Children are begging
Isn't it time to go?
As soon as it's dark
Out the door we go

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"Halloween is coming soon, so we have to practice looking scary before we can go up to 24th Street."

Cartoon by Barbara May

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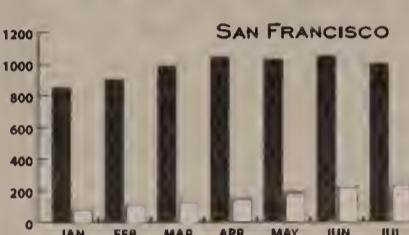
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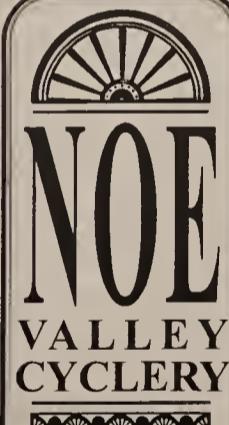


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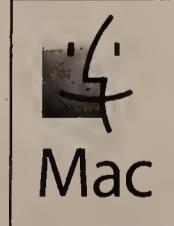


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Family Finds Solace in Support from Friends And Neighbors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kathryn Woods calls "a hub in the neighborhood."

The Aug. 8 fire, which erupted in the sauna, triggered smoke alarms that roused Xander and his friends from their beds. The young men scrambled out, some of them wearing only their boxer shorts.

According to investigators, the sauna was apparently switched on inadvertently and something—perhaps a magazine—that was left too close to the heating element caught fire.

Assured that Xander was safe, Lisa, husband Gerry Agosta, 16-year-old son Rio, and 8-year-old daughter Sophia prepared for their return to San Francisco. It was not how their three-week holiday in Marbella, where they are partners in a restaurant and nightclub, was supposed to end.

The scene they returned to was heartbreaking. The modern wood and glass house they had built less than two years earlier was a burned-out shell.

"I had trouble processing what I saw," says Moresco. "I couldn't really believe what was happening."

But she could also see how members of the Noe Valley community had come together to help. From Xander she heard how next-door neighbors Gus Murad, Matt Sánchez, and Ramon Lim had assisted firefighters. How Murad had taken Xander, who had fled the burning house in his underwear, to Mission Street to buy him clothes and shoes. And how builder Mike Cassidy had boarded up the house after the fire was out.

Word of the blaze spread, well, like wildfire, among the family's wide network of friends and acquaintances. Both Moresco and Agosta are well known in Noe Valley and the Mission—she from 15 years operating Natural Resources, a pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting resource center, and he from Buena Vista Builders, which has constructed dozens of homes in the neighborhood over the past two decades.

Friends like e-mailer Debi Skaggs



Lisa Moresco, Gerry Agosta and family were showered with kind words and offers of help after their home on 27th Street was severely damaged in a fire on Aug. 8. Photos by Tim Innes

rushed to the house, offering warm clothing to Xander's friends and helping them get in touch with their parents. They got the car out of the garage and helped Xander remove anything that could be salvaged. Among the treasures taken to Murad's garage for safekeeping were the children's memory boxes, artwork, photos, and journals, and the Buddha statue that had guarded the front door. Another friend, Kathy Bruin, taped posterboard to the garage door so people could leave messages of encouragement; many did.

Offers of housing poured in. Four homeowners (including two from Noe

Valley) to whom Agosta had sold houses offered to put the family up in their homes. In the end, the family took temporary shelter at 24th and Grand View. They are now renting an apartment on Russian Hill while their house is being rebuilt. They hope to be back on 27th Street by next fall.

Acts of kindness continued. Chris Cosentino and Mark Pastore of Incanto, which Moresco calls "our kitchen away from home," treated the family to a feast. "They brought food, they brought wine, they hugged us, they kissed us," she says. "The whole staff poured love on us."

Preschool operators Julia Reddy and Debra King, along with longtime friend Carrie Holder, took up a collection, which was matched by Hayes Valley merchant Lemon Twist, to help the family replace clothing. Contributors included "old friends, some of whom we hadn't seen in years, and people we didn't even know," says Moresco.

She's been trying to return the favor by spending insurance money at neighborhood businesses, but even that's proving difficult. One merchant still hasn't cashed the check Moresco wrote for some new clothes for Sophia.

Despite the loss of the home he built with the help of Xander, who's now attending Lake Forest College in Illinois, Agosta counts his blessings.

"The first thing Lisa and I realized is that within the grand scheme of things, we have lost little.... Our children are here and well today. The rest is stuff, and most of it can be replaced, and of what cannot, we have memories."

He's thankful for the professionalism and bravery of the Fire Department, calling the crew from the firehouse on 26th Street "amazing." He says he's "glad we have such talented people working on our behalf."

Agosta praises his insurance company ("I never thought I'd say that," he jokes) for making it possible for the family to rebuild their lives—along with their home.

And he thanks his friends and neighbors. "It still strikes me as amazing how quickly the news spread and how fast everyone assembled at our home," says Agosta. Their help and support "reflects a deep sense of community. We feel well taken care of."

In discussing the fire and its aftermath, Moresco, Agosta, Woods, and Skaggs return again and again to the special sense of community in Noe Valley. It's a place, Skaggs notes, where neighbors look out for one another, where residents fight to save their library, children's playgrounds, and senior services, and support a thriving farmers market.

"It's such a great place to raise a family," says Woods, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1983. "It is a cohesive community in the good times and the bad. We want [Lisa and Gerry] to rebuild and come back home." ■



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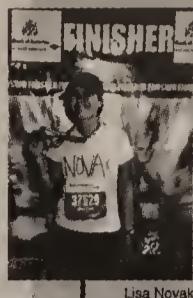
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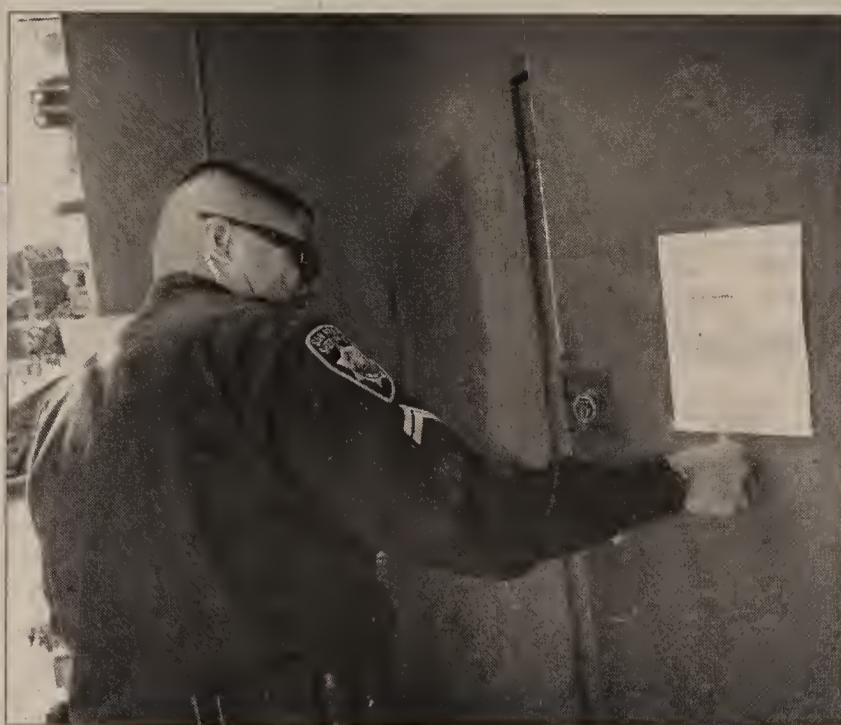


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Eviction Done, But 'Blue Church' May Sit for a While

The controversial Church of San Francisco at 28th and Church streets is now an empty shell, following the eviction of Pastor Joe-Siah Bell and several followers last month. A half dozen Sheriff's deputies cleared the building Sept. 23 after the "Blue Church" lost its final appeal in Superior Court. Workmen for the owner immediately boarded the doors and windows with plywood.

The church had been embroiled in a three-year dispute with its former business partner, J. Branch Developments, Inc., a firm that plans to build six condominiums on the site. Because of weak economic conditions, developer James Branch says he won't start construction for 9 to 10 months. He has been asking neighbors if they prefer to see the building razed immediately, with the



Photos by Najib Joe Hakim

corner becoming a vacant lot, or whether the rundown building should remain until construction starts. No decision had been reached at press time.

—Corrie M. Anders

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—VINCENT VAN GOGH, 1853-1890

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Tracking the Elusive Trimpin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

kept popping up," Esmonde recalls, remembering a conversation with San Francisco artist Camille Utterback, who, like Trimpin, is a MacArthur Fellow—the recipient of a "genius grant" from the MacArthur Foundation.

Trimpin, 58, is a Seattle-based sound artist and inventor who only uses his last name. He's best known for creating highly complex installation projects, such as a 60-foot tower of self-tuning electric guitars made for Seattle's Experience Music Project, and a giant Seismofon, installed in the Minnesota Science Museum, which uses software algorithms to convert real-time seismic data from earthquakes into music.

Finding Trimpin was relatively easy, says Esmonde. Convincing him to take part in a film about his life and work wasn't.

"It was basically like the naturalist

stalking the wildebeest," quips Esmonde.

Trimpin is notoriously publicity-shy and wary of the commercial art world. Despite his critical success—he's also a Guggenheim Fellow—Trimpin has never been represented by a gallery or recorded his music for commercial purposes, nor does he have a dealer, manager, website, or even a cell phone.

But Esmonde persisted, traveling to visit the artist in his funhouse of a studio, piled high with all manner of reclaimed objects waiting to become the moving parts of Trimpin's next project.

"Getting Trimpin's trust, that took some doing. That was a hurdle," Esmonde says.

Eventually, and with much coaxing, the artist agreed to take part in the film. Esmonde's next challenge? Actually filming Trimpin, who moves constantly and without warning from object to object, much like a bearded butterfly in a flower garden. Esmonde chose to use a handheld camera and a direct cinema approach for the film. Nothing was scripted, staged, or reshot.

"He's very much somebody who is looking at things on the fly. That handheld approach gives that sense of immediacy. And to try to set up a tripod in that guy's studio and try to have him stay within the frame would have been impossible," Esmonde says.

Filmed over a two-year period, the documentary follows Trimpin as he collaborates with the members of the San Francisco-based Kronos Quartet. During the shoot, Trimpin journeys to his childhood home in Germany's Black Forest region and constructs various projects, including a perpetual motion sculpture and a gallery-sized bamboo pipe organ "played" by infrared sensors.

As Esmonde films, Trimpin fashions everything from slide projectors to wooden clogs into instruments playing scores controlled by wizard-like feats of software design. He also leads the Kronos Quartet (David Harrington, John Sherba, Hank Dutt, and Jeffrey Zeigler) on a road that ends in a world premiere concert, featuring plastic toys and mo-



Trimpin, the eccentric subject of a documentary by Noe Valley filmmaker Peter Esmonde, is a wizard at manipulating sounds and software, but he prefers not to own a cell phone. Here he poses in front of his art installation *Sheng High*, which uses reeds encased in bamboo to deliver sound throughout the room.

Photo by Matthew G. Monroe

tion-activated instruments worn on performers' bodies.

Accompanying Esmonde's own footage are archival photographs, sound recordings of Trimpin's work, interviews with family and colleagues, and video shot by Trimpin's teenage nephew.

The result is a 79-minute portrait of an eccentric, prolific artist, capable of creating large-scale sonic curiosities as technically triumphant as they are conceptually imaginative.

So far this year, *Trimpin* has played at the South by Southwest (SXSW) film festival, Silverdocs, and the Seattle International Film Festival, among others.

Of course, for Trimpin the man, outcome is largely beside the point.

"He's not interested in a final product. He's more interested in the process...and to me that's fascinating," Esmonde says.

What's next for Esmonde? Along with watching his film head to festivals throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe this fall, Esmonde is currently at work on a short film about Berkeley musician Ellen Fullman, creator of a giant acoustic instrument called the long string that is played by a walking performer. ■

Trimpin: The Sound of Invention screens at the Mill Valley Film Festival on Oct. 14 and Oct. 16 (*Trimpin* and Esmonde will be present for a Q&A session). During the San Francisco DocFest, the film screens at the Roxie, 3117 16th Street, on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 29 at 9:15 p.m.; Esmonde will be present for a Q&A at the Oct. 29 showing. For tickets, visit www.sfindie.com. Visit mvff.com for more information. Additional information about the film and future screenings can be found online at www.trimpinmovie.com.



Artist/composer Trimpin, shown here in his Seattle studio, once made a 60-foot tower out of electric guitars. *Photo by Peter Holey*

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Sales Dry Up In August

By Corrie M. Anders

The purchase of single-family homes in Noe Valley retreated in August after three consecutive months of relatively robust sales. Home shoppers purchased seven homes during the month, according to sales data provided to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

The total represented a significant decrease from mid-year, when energized buyers bought 22 homes in July, 15 in June, and 14 in May. The latest sales also lagged the pace of August one year ago, when 15 homes exchanged hands.

Despite the sluggish activity, however, buyers who closed escrow weren't

chintzy. They typically paid a smidgen more than the seller's asking price.

The typical home sold for nearly \$1,261,000, about 9.5 percent less than the \$1,396,000 average sales price in August one year ago. Two of the seven homes sold for under \$1 million.

The most expensive home sold was on the market for 10 days and the new owner paid the full asking price, said Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager. The \$1,995,000 house, with four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and 2,900 square feet of living space, is located in the 100 block of Hoffman Avenue between 22nd and 23rd streets.

Condominium sales also declined in August. Zephyr reported six deals, compared with nine in July and eight in the same month one year ago. The average price of a condo was slightly more than \$833,000, about \$50,000 more than the \$780,000 recorded one year earlier.

The top-selling unit was on the market for two months and sold for \$1,225,000. The four-bedroom, two-bath condo is located in the 500 block of Alvarado Street between Noe and Castro streets. ■

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Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	% of List Price
Single-family homes						
August 2009	7	\$818,000	\$1,995,000	\$1,260,543	53	101%
July 2009	22	\$675,000	\$2,610,000	\$1,196,411	53	100%
August 2008	15	\$1,000,000	\$2,195,000	\$1,396,200	52	102%
Condominiums						
August 2009	6	\$605,000	\$1,225,000	\$833,250	67	98%
July 2009	9	\$349,000	\$1,030,000	\$827,667	54	99%
August 2008	8	\$399,000	\$2,000,000	\$780,375	57	96%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
August 2009	1	\$938,000	\$938,000	\$938,000	163	94%
July 2009	3	\$1,120,000	\$1,725,000	\$1,393,333	97	100%
August 2008	3	\$1,299,000	\$2,100,000	\$1,608,000	74	101%
5+unit buildings						
August 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
July 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
August 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data.

NVV 10/09

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range Sept. 2009	Average Sept. 2009	Average July/Aug. 2009	Average Sept. 2008
Studio	5	\$1,050 - \$1,495	\$1,333 / mo.	\$1,472 / mo.	\$1,474 / mo.
1-bdrm	36	\$1,350 - \$4,200	\$1,987 / mo.	\$1,633 / mo.	\$1,966 / mo.
2-bdrm	32	\$1,899 - \$4,800	\$2,684 / mo.	\$2,767 / mo.	\$2,793 / mo.
3-bdrm	26	\$2,750 - \$7,500	\$4,088 / mo.	\$4,332 / mo.	\$4,837 / mo.
4+-bdrm	9	\$3,695 - \$7,500	\$5,527 / mo.	\$4,950 / mo.	\$6,336 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 108 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Sept. 4 to 17, 2009.

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11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Home for Sale

San Francisco - According to industry experts, there are physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of buyer expectations during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair, delays or willing buyers. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the buyer's inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether.

In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help home sellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-800-596-8310 and enter 1511. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call now to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of Jane Ivory, Hill & Co. DRE #1058116. Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale.

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POLICE BEAT

REPORT FROM MISSION STATION

The following crime summaries were culled from incident reports filed at Mission Police Station. They cover some but not all incidents occurring Aug. 16 through Sept. 15, 2009, in the northern half of Noe Valley, defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 21st, Guerrero, and Cesar Chavez streets. The summaries were provided by Officer Jane Warner of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police.

Aug. 27, 9 p.m., 900 block of Douglass, Theft of Purse: A woman reported setting her purse down on her driveway outside her house to break up a dogfight. When she remembered the next day that she had left her purse outside, she checked on it and discovered it missing. A \$500 green Mazzini purse, a Williams leather wallet, a BlackBerry phone, a checkbook, credit cards, all missing.

Aug. 28, 9 a.m., 600 block of Alvarado, Auto Burglary: A Toyota RAV4, parked overnight on a public street, was burglarized. The passenger side window was smashed. A Swiss Army knife, numerous CDs, and about \$50 were taken.

Aug. 28, 11:05 a.m. (rptd), 23rd and Castro, Auto Burglary: A Honda Accord, parked on a public street overnight, was broken into. No apparent damage was done to the locked vehicle. However, missing from the interior was a \$1,200 Apple laptop computer, backpack, and several textbooks.

Sept. 5, 5:26 p.m., 26th and Church, Stolen Vehicle Pursuit (arrest made): While on routine patrol, Lt. Ed Santos, assigned to Mission Station, observed a green Honda Accord at the intersection of Mission and 24th streets traveling at a high speed. The lieutenant ran the license plate of the vehicle, and the computer query revealed the car had been reported stolen. Making a U-turn, Santos radioed Dispatch his observations, along with a description of the occupant and the car's direction of travel. Several units responded to the area, and officers soon spotted the car southbound on Mission at 23rd. Giving chase, officers pursued the fleeing car as it wound through Capp Street, running stop signs and traveling in excess of 50 miles per hour. As the stolen vehicle neared Folsom and Cesar Chavez, the chase was canceled in accordance with police policy, as supervisors determined the pursuit was becoming too reckless. Officers stopped chasing the vehicle at Folsom and last saw it turn westbound on Cesar Chavez. A short time later, however, Dispatch advised officers a resident on the 1300 block of Noe Street called to report a man driving a green Honda had abruptly parked in front of her house, gotten out of the car, and started running. The resident gave the license number of the car, which matched the car involved in the pursuit. Officers quickly responded to the area and found the suspect walking on Church near 26th Street. They took him into custody at gunpoint. The suspect, 24, was taken to Mission Station, where he was booked for driving a stolen vehicle, driving with a suspended license, and committing numerous traffic violations, including reckless driving and speeding, evading police, probation violation, and an outstanding warrant for \$10,000.

Sept. 11, 2:30 p.m., 4000 block of 24th, False Impersonation to Receive Money or Property: A man was alerted by his bank that someone had tried to withdraw funds from his debit account at Bank of America on 24th Street. A representative from the bank informed the man that his social security number had been used and a hold had been placed on his account, pending further investigation by the bank's fraud division. The representative informed the man to file a police report.

Sept. 12, 12:34 a.m., 1400 block of Castro, Commercial Burglary: A man who had just got off the bus observed another man near the corner market at Castro and 25th streets, looking around and acting suspicious. The witness thought this was strange behavior, but kept on walking. Suddenly, he heard a loud crash, looked over, and saw the suspicious man running. Behind him was a young woman running as well. The man called police on his cell phone and gave the dispatcher a description of the two subjects. Officers arrived, searched the area, found the couple near Jersey Street, and detained them without incident pending further investigation. An officer returned to the store to see what had happened and found a metal newspaper rack lying on its side underneath an open window on the side of the building. The owner of the market arrived and conducted a walk-through of the premises. Finding nothing missing or disturbed, the owner told officers that sometimes the window is left open because of the hot weather. Officers transported the suspects, 29 and 17, to Mission Station and charged them with commercial burglary and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Sept. 13, 7 a.m., Eureka and 22nd, Auto Burglary: Insurance and registration documents, phone charger, and car service manual were taken from a locked car while parked on a public street. Owner discovered the car locked; no damage noted.

Tale of Two Districts

Noe Valley is split between two San Francisco police jurisdictions: Mission Police District and Ingleside Police District. With Cesar Chavez Street as the dividing line, Mission police monitor the northern half of the neighborhood, while Ingleside police patrol the southern half. Both districts invite citizens to attend police-community meetings, held monthly. Mission Police District holds meetings on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. This month, the meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane.

Police Contacts

Mission Station: 558-5400
Anonymous Tip Line: 552-4558
Capt. Stephen Tacchini: 558-5455
Stephen.Tacchini@sfgov.org
Ingleside Station: 404-4000
Anonymous Tip Line: 587-8984
Capt. David Lazar: 404-4000
David.Lazar@sfgov.org

To file a police report, go to any local station or file online at www.sfgov.org.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. Cell phone users can dial S.F. Dispatch directly: 415-553-8090.

REPORT FROM INGLESIDE STATION

This crime log for Upper Noe Valley—an area roughly bordered by Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, 30th, and Diamond streets—has been culled from newsletters produced by Capt. David Lazar, commander of Ingleside Police Station. The incidents are those that were reported Aug. 16 to Sept. 15, 2009. Please note that the list may not include all incidents occurring or reported during the month. If you would like to receive Capt. Lazar's newsletter, send an email to SFPDInglesideStation@sfgov.org.

Aug. 21, 5:39 a.m., 00 block of 29th, Attempted Burglary: Officer Almaguer and Officer Ng responded to a report of vandalism. They met with the witness, who said that when he arrived at work he heard a loud noise from the kitchen. When he went to see what was going on, he discovered that the rear door to the building had been forced open. The witness returned to the front of the business and saw a man peering through the window. The man left when he saw the witness.

Aug. 21, 7 p.m., 500 block of 29th, Fraud: Officer Archilla met with a woman at Ingleside Station regarding a case of fraud. The victim had been telephoned by a suspect who identified himself as her grandson. The suspect said he had been arrested in Canada and needed bail money. The victim also spoke with other suspects who requested money on her "grandson's" behalf, including one who posed as a police officer. The suspects called back several times requesting more money for attorney fees and other costs. In all, the victim sent several large payments to the suspects.

Aug. 21, 8:51 p.m., 1600 block of Dolores, Burglary: Officer Bernal and Officer Androvich were dispatched to a reported burglary. The officers met with the victim, who said that when he left his house earlier in the day, he noticed that his garage door was open. Upon further inspection, he discovered that his unlocked car had been ransacked and several items had been stolen from the garage. These items included a bicycle, a first-aid kit, and pumps. The victim was not sure if he had left the garage door open overnight.

Aug. 22, 5:18 p.m., San Jose and 30th, Unlicensed Driver: Officer Gardiner stopped a vehicle because the driver was talking on a cellular phone. The driver had never been issued a California driver's license. The vehicle was towed and the driver was cited.

Aug. 22, 6 p.m., 500 block of 28th, Stolen Vehicle: 1991 Toyota Camry, burgundy.

Aug. 27, 10:37 a.m., 1600 block of Guerrero, Malicious Mischief: Officer Curry prepared a report regarding graffiti. Victim's garage door had been marked with a silver marker.

Aug. 29, 9:05 a.m., Day and Sanchez, Investigative Detention: Officer Creed and other Ingleside Station officers arrived on scene where a concerned citizen saw a male subject remove items from one vehicle, enter a public building, and then place the items in a secondary vehicle. The officers detained the subject; however, it was determined that both vehicles belonged to the subject, and the officers were unable to prove the items in question were in fact stolen.

Aug. 29, 7:33 p.m., 30th and Sanchez, Theft: Officer Suslow and Officer Chang were on patrol when they were flagged down regarding a theft from a vehicle. The victim said that she had left her car parked on the street for about two and a half hours. When she returned to it, she saw the driver's side door window had been smashed. She also found that her GPS system had been stolen out of the car.

Sept. 2, 4:44 p.m., 5700 block of Diamond Heights, Burglary: Officer Stansbury prepared a report regarding a residential burglary. Victim's passport, laptop, money, and camera were stolen.

Sept. 2, 3:39 p.m., 30th and Church, Traffic Collision:

Sept. 5, 7 p.m., 500 block of 28th, Stolen Auto:

Sept. 9, 7 p.m., 200 block of 27th, Residential Burglary: Officer Aslam took a report of two stolen bicycles from a garage. No suspects had been seen.

Sept. 10, 9 p.m., 1600 block of Church, Theft from Auto: Lt. Perea responded to investigate a theft from a car. The victim told the officer that he left his vehicle unlocked and his property was subsequently stolen.

Sept. 17, 5:34 p.m., 1800 block of Church, Miscellaneous Investigation: Officers arrived at a home where a resident wished to turn over a suspected explosive device. Proper steps were taken to ensure neighborhood safety. Fortunately, it was discovered the item was not what it was thought to have been.

Sept. 17, 10:15 p.m., 400 block of 28th, Vandalism to Vehicles: Officer Chou took a report on this block, where two vehicles were found with the windows broken and the trunks opened. The owners of the vehicles were not located, and it was therefore unknown whether any items were taken.

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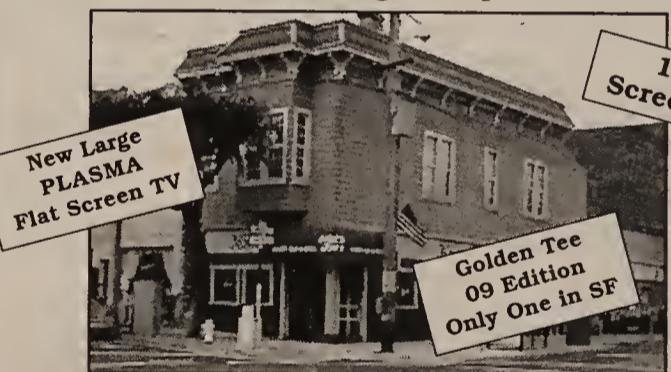
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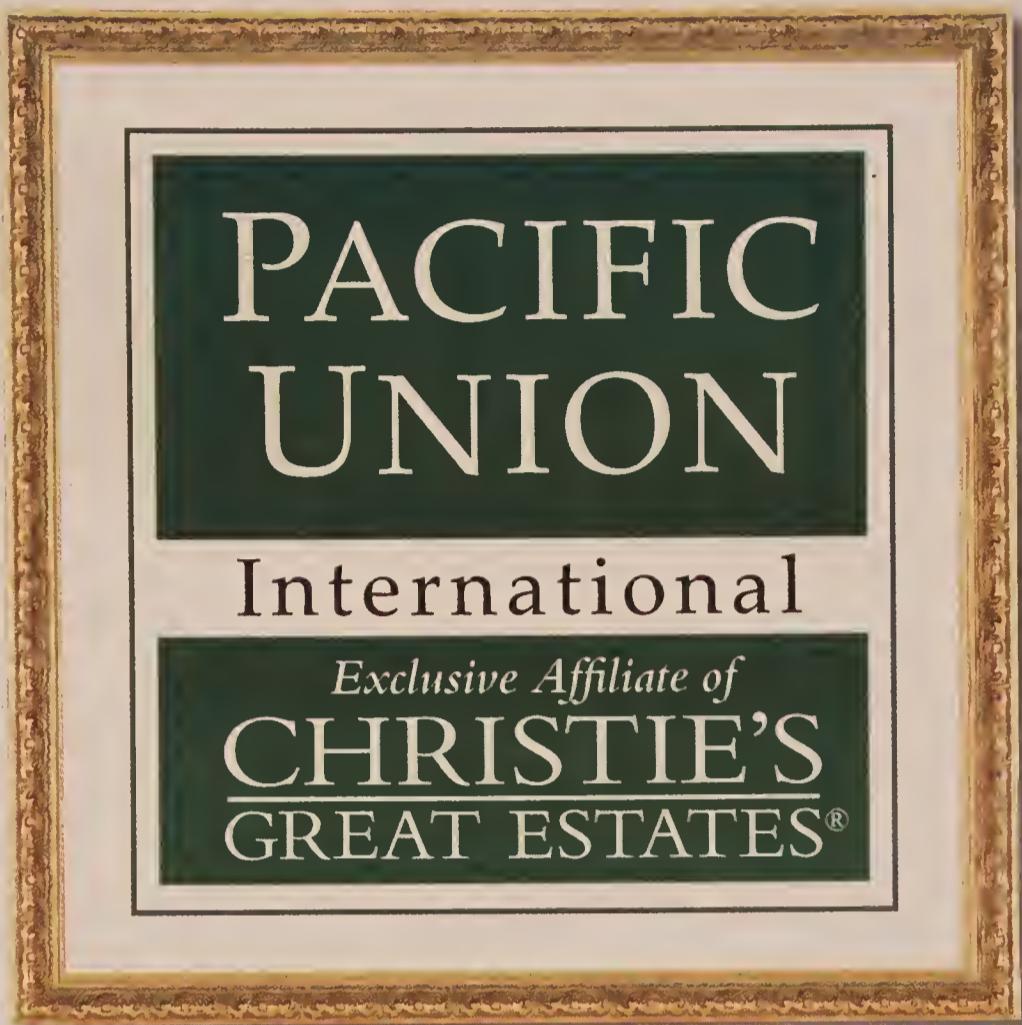
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OCTOBER 2009

Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: A Thursday STROLLER WALK starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am and rolls through Noe and the Castro. 3872 24th. www.noestrolls.com.

Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Kiki-Yo offers a PILATES fundamentals class. 6-6:55 pm, Thursdays. 605B Chenery. 587-5454.

Oct. 1-30: Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Call to reserve a spot, 648-1030.

Oct. 1-31: OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Mon.-Sat., 7 to 8 am. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

Oct. 1-Nov. 14: Ann Randolph performs her new ONE-WOMAN SHOW, *Loveland*. Thurs., 8 pm; Sat., 5 pm; no shows Oct. 22, 24 & 31. 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themars.org.

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: CLARE tells tales for kids at Cover to Cover's Friday story hour, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Yell "BINGO!" at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538

Oct. 2-30: Maria Tam teaches a YIJIN TAI CHI class at Upper Noe Rec Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. 7-8:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 828-9436.

Oct. 3: SF Mystery Bookstore hosts a pre-holiday PARTY, with authors Wendy Hornsby, Cara Black, Michael Castleman, Hailey Lind, and others. 1-3 pm. 4175 24th. 282-7444.

Oct. 3: Four stores—When Modern Was, Loft 1513, Lynn Antiques, and a new garden store Independent Nature—hold a SIDEWALK SALE along Church Street from Cesar Chavez to 28th. 11 am-6 pm. 1504 Church. 970-1030.

Oct. 3: ALLISON BARTLETT reads from *The Man Who Loved Books Too Much*. 7-9 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

Oct. 3 & 4: ArtSpan holds its preview GALA for San Francisco Open Studios, held weekends in October. (Free public reception on Sunday, Oct. 4.) 7:30-10 pm. SOMArts Gallery, 934 Brannan. www.artspan.org.

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: The Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET features fresh produce and music by a variety of performers. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Oct. 3 & Nov. 7: The LADYBUG GARDENING group at Upper Noe Valley Park meets the first Saturday of the month to plant flowers, pull weeds, and pick up litter. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. jrlion@aol.com.

Oct. 3-Nov. 22: Pearls Over Shanghai, the COCKETTES musical plays Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 7 pm. Thrillpeddlers' Hypnodrome, 575 10th. 800-838-3006

Oct. 4: An eight-week class for teens (ages 11 and up) to explore RELIGION vs. SPIRITUALITY begins at the Noe Valley Ministry. Noon. 1021 Sanchez. For info contact Heather Grantham, director of Family Ministry. 282-8626; familyministry@noevalleyministry.org.

Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25: Learn about MISSION DOLORES at a City Guides walk on Sundays, 11 am. Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church. 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

Oct. 4 & 18: SF City Guides leads free WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays. 1-3 pm. Meet at 451 Jersey. 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

Oct. 4-27: City Guide Dan Sullivan leads "Castro: Tales of the Village," a WALKING TOUR of the Castro, every Tuesday and Sunday. Meet at 11 am at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro & Market) under the rainbow flag. 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

Oct. 4 & Nov. 1: Rocket DOG RESCUE has dogs who need homes. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26: Chris Sequeira offers a free Introductory QIGONG/TAI CHI session outdoors at 10:30 am, and at the Noe Valley Ministry at 6 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com.

Oct. 5-28: Kids and their caregivers are invited for TOT TIME at Upper Noe Rec Center. Mon., 10-11:30 am; Tues., 3-5 pm; and Wed., 3-5:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011.

Oct. 6: Take a CLASS in "Basic Internet Searching," 2-3 pm, at the Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday morning STORY HOUR, for newborns to age 4. 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477.

Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Noe Valley Library sponsors TODDLER TALES, 10:15 am, and preschool STORY TIME, 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:45 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

Oct. 6 & Nov. 3: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama. 554-3050.

Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Pal Mel teaches PAL TIME, a class for tots 18 months to 3 years. 9-9:40 am. MoBu Dance Studio, 1605 Church. 550-PALS; www.pal-ersize.com.

Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28: The Upper Noe SENIORS group meets on Wednesdays for socializing and bingo. Noon-3:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 970-8061 or 695-5011.

Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME TIME, for 0-18 months, begins at 3 pm; a family story time for ages 2 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 100 Collingwood. 355-5616.

Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28: The Castro FARMERS' MARKET offers produce from 4 to 8 pm Wednesdays through October. Noe & Market. Merchants of Upper Market & Castro. www.pfcma.com.



Kush Arora performs dub and dread bass with MC Zulu and the Spit Brothers at the Elbo Room on Oct. 11. Photo by Kelly Koehler

Oct. 8: Openhouse Outreach invites LGBT SENIORS to second-Thursday meetings at 30th Street Senior Center. 10 am. 225 30th. 296-8995.

Oct. 8: Andrew Coe discusses *Chop Suey: A Cultural History of CHINESE FOOD in the United States* at Omnivore Books. 5:30-7:30 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 8: 1985 comedy *Goonies* is on the screen at Dolores Park's MOVIE NIGHT. 8 pm. www.doloresparkmovie.org.

Oct. 9 & 10: RUPA & the April Fishes perform ;Catapulta; an evening of music and exhibits relating to the human impact of U.S. anti-immigration policies. 8 pm. Brava Theater, 2781 24th.

641-7657.
www.brownpapertickets.com.

Oct. 10: Cindy Mushet and Bella Mushet give tips on *Baking with Kids*. 2-3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 10: Local youth band the SOQUEZELS plays rock classics from the Kiss, the Beatles, and Ramones. 2-4 pm. Paxton Gate, 824 Valencia. www.PaxtonGate.com.

Oct. 10: Local doulas and MIDWIVES gather on second Saturdays at Natural Resources. 2-4 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; www.naturalresources-sf.com.

Oct. 10: Doug Dorst reads from *Alive in Necropolis* at the WRITERS With Drinks event at the Make-Out Room. 7:30-9:30 pm. 3225 22nd. www.writerswithdrinks.com.

Oct. 10: STELLAMARA performs a CD release concert at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Oct. 10 & 11: ARTISTS from Noe Valley, Glen Park, and the Castro open their doors from 11 am to 6 pm as part of San Francisco Open Studios. To download a map, go to www.artspan.org.

Oct. 11: Leslie Bennett, owner of Garden Fare, discusses KITCHEN GARDENS. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 13: Gastronomica editor Darra Goldstein discusses her books, including *A Taste of RUSSIA*. 5:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 11: DUB MISSION presents a night of dub, dread bass, steppers, and tunk with Kush Arora, MC Zulu, and the Spit Brothers. 9 pm-2 am. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. www.dubmissionssf.com.

OCTOBER EVENTS ~ 2009



MON. OCT. 5 • DAVID TANIS • 6-7 P.M. • FREE • The author of *A Platter of Figs* will discuss his book and work at Chez Panisse.

THURS. OCT. 8 • ANDREW COE • 5:30-7:30 P.M. • FREE • *Chop Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food in the United States*. A food history discussion.

SAT. OCT. 10 • CINDY MUSHET • 2-3 P.M. • FREE • Baking with Kids. Cindy and her daughter Bella will talk about baking with kids.

SUN. OCT. 11 • LESLIE BENNETT • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • Garden Fare owner Leslie Bennett will give a talk on installing kitchen gardens!

TUES. OCT. 13 • DARRA GOLDSTEIN • 5:30-7:30 P.M. • FREE • Join us for a talk by editor of *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*.

WED. OCT. 14 • JOHN BESH • 6-7 P.M. • FREE • My New Orleans. The famed New Orleans chef will tell us everything we need to know about cooking down south.

THURS. OCT. 15 • LINDA CARUCCI • 6-7 P.M. • FREE • Cooking School Secrets for Real World Cooks. Carucci is a teacher who has worked her way through the ranks of culinary America for 20 years.

SAT. OCT. 17 • ANITA CHU • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • Field Guide to Candy. For Halloween, Ms. Chu will lead us through the most important steps of candy-making.

SUN. OCT. 18 • TOD DAVIES • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • Jam Today: A Diary of Cooking with What You've Got. Davies will be joined by Small Vine Wines for a wine-tasting and book talk.

SAT. OCT. 24 • TOM VALENTI • 12-1 P.M. • FREE • You Don't Have to Be Diabetic to Love this Cookbook. Great cooking tips for diabetic diets.

SAT. OCT. 24 • ROD ROTUNDI • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • Raw Food for Real People. Rotundi discusses all the great ways we can prepare raw foods.

SUN. OCT. 25 • BARBARA GHAZARIAN • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • The author of two great books, *Simply Quince* and *Simply Armenian* will be here to talk about both.

WED. OCT. 28 • WILLIAM GRIMES • 6-7 P.M. • FREE • *Appetite City: A Culinary History of New York*. Esteemed former restaurant reviewer for the New York Times will discuss this fascinating history tome.

SAT. OCT. 31 • JULIE USHER • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • Cookie Swap: Creative Treats to Share Throughout the Year. Share Halloween treats, and plenty of fun!

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CALENDAR

Oct. 13: Fima Gelman offers tips on "How to PHOTOGRAPH Your Children." 7-8 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707.

Oct. 14: John Besh introduces *My NEW ORLEANS: The Cookbook*. 6-7 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 15: Linda Carucci shows *Cooking School Secrets for Real World Cooks* at OMNIVORE BOOKS. 6-7 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 15: The EUREKA VALLEY Promotion Association meets the third Thursday of the month. 7:30 pm. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro. 437-9414; www.evpa.org.

Oct. 16: *The Red Balloon and It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* are on screen at Noe Valley FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT. 6 pm. 1414 Castro. 550-7577 or 541-1010.

Oct. 16: COMEDY IN THE CASTRO features Loni Love, Nene Leakes, Sasha Soprano, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. 7:30 pm. Castro Theater, 429 Castro. www.castrotheatre.com.

Oct. 16-17: Meet at the Miguel Hidalgo statue in Dolores Park to hop the J-line trolley to see the SF TROLLEY DANCES festival, leaving every 45 minutes from 11 am to 2:45 pm. 226-1139.

Oct. 17: The Noe Valley Ministry's RUMMAGE SALE offers bargains from 8 am to 5 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleyministry.org.

Oct. 17: Fairmount School's benefit CAR WASH and Bake Sale runs from 10 am to 3 pm. 65 Chinery. Enter on Randall at San Jose. 695-5669.

Oct. 17: Anita Chu's *Field Guide to CANDY* includes treats from around the world. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 17: Help support the 30th Street Senior Center at a OINNER-OANCE and fundraiser at Patio Español. 5:30-10 pm. 2850 Alameda Boulevard. For tickets, call Aimee Eng, 292-8732, or Marianne Hampton, 601-7845 or 550-2230.

Oct. 17: As part of the Litcrawl Fest, Paxton Gate presents Curiosities for Kids, STORYTELLING with Em Gift and Michele Menard. 6-7 pm. Paxton Gate, 824 Valencia. www.PaxtonGate.com or www.litquake.org.

Oct. 17: LITCRAWL at the Elbo Room features Get Lit and the Bang Out Reading Series. 7:15-9 pm. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

Oct. 17 & 18: Half Moon Bay's annual Art and PUMPKIN FESTIVAL runs from 9 am to 5 pm. 650-726-9652; www.miramarevents.com.

Oct. 18: The CARROTMOB event at Bernie's Coffee, hosted by Rebecca Prozan, pledges 40% of sales to going greener. 11 am-2 pm. 3966 24th. prozan@gmail.com or <http://sf.carrotmob.org>.

Oct. 18: In Jam Today: *A Diary of Cooking with What You've Got*, TOD DAVIES encourages creative use of food on hand. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 18: JAZZ VESPERS at the Noe Valley Ministry features the Pete Yellin Quartet. 5-6:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleyministry.org.

Oct. 18: The Music on the Hill CHAMBER MUSIC series presents a concert by the Ariel Ensemble. 7 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Goldmine. 820-1429; www.musiconthhill.org.

Oct. 21: The VISUAL ARTS Committee of the SF Arts Commission meets third Wednesdays at 3 pm. 25 Van Ness, Suite 70. 252-2590; www.sfartscommission.org.

Oct. 21: Representatives from 100 PRESCHOOLS will be on hand at the 17th annual Preschool Preview Night sponsored by Parents Place. 5:30-8 pm. Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. 359-2455; www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org.

Oct. 21: The Noe Valley BOOK Discussion Group meets on third Wednesdays, from 7 to 8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.spl.org.

Oct. 23: *Lost in the Fog*, the documentary about HARRY ALEO's racehorse, will be shown in the city parking lot on the south side of 24th between Noe and Castro. 8 pm. 550-7577 or 541-1010.

Oct. 24: The Noe Valley HARVEST FESTIVAL features live bands, a pumpkin patch, dog's and children's costume contests, a pie-eating contest, gardening presentations, and a raffle. 10 am-5 pm. 24th between Sanchez and Church.

Oct. 24: OOCTOBERFEST at the Upper Douglass Oog Park features costumes, pet portraits, and treats. 11 am to 2 pm. www.fuddp.org.

Oct. 24: The SF Shakespeare Festival presents *HAMLET*! a free one-hour version of the Shakespeare classic. 2-3:30 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Oct. 24: Rod Rotundi discusses his cookbook, *RAW FOOD for Real People*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 24: AFRICAN HARP player Prince Diabate performs with his band at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Oct. 24: Performance Showcase 2009 presents *Morristers and Saints*, spoken word, MUSIC AND DANCE by Julie Queen, David Denny, and Maia Scott. 8 pm. St. Aidan's, 101 Gold Mine Drive. 800-838-3006.

Oct. 24 & 25: Come in costume to BOO AT THE ZOO, which features treats for the animals and goodies for visitors; no rubber masks, please. 10 am-4 pm. Sloat at the Great Highway. 753-7073.

Oct. 24 & 29: *Trimpin: The Sound of Invention*, a FILM by Peter Esmonde, screens at the SF DocFest Oct. 24 at 7 pm, and Oct. 29 at 9:15 pm. Roxie Theater, 3117 16th. www.sfindie.com.

Oct. 25: Barbara Ghazarian talks about her books, *Simply Quince* and *Simply ARMENIAN*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 25: The Gold Coast Chamber Players performs mostly English CHAMBER MUSIC at the Noe Valley Ministry. 4 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org.

Oct. 27: The Noe Valley MERCHANTS and Professionals Association meets on the last Wednesday of the month. 9 am. Bank of America, 4098 24th. Robert T. Roddick, 641-8687.

Oct. 27: John Freeman discusses San Francisco's RICHMOND DISTRICT at the monthly San Francisco History Association meeting. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

Oct. 28: William Grimes offers a CULINARY HISTORY of New York in *Appetite City*. 6-7 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 31: Bring usable items, food, and talents to the Really REALLY FREE MARKET the last Saturday of the month, noon. Oloores Park, Oloores & 18th.

Oct. 31: *COOKIE Swap: Creative Treats to Share During the Year* by Julie Usher features sweet and savory treats. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.



NOVEMBER THE DEADLINE

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the November 2009 issue, appearing on the streets of Noe Valley the first week of November. Email items by October 15 to calendard@noevalleyvoice.com or write us at Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: Noe Valley events may receive priority. Thank you.

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SHORT TAKES

Catch the Next Trolley Dance

For the first time in its six-year history, the modern dance festival San Francisco Trolley Dances will roll through Noe Valley, treating riders and onlookers to dance performances along the J-Church line the weekend of Oct. 16 and 17.

Show curator Kim Epifano of Epiphany Productions has clustered seven performances in Dolores and Balboa parks, and the tour will also include a "drive-by" performance in Noe Valley at 30th and Church streets. Anyone can watch the dances from the sidewalk or join the trolley car as it progresses, but to get the full flavor of the festival you should sign up for the entire ride at the Miguel Hidalgo statue near the pedestrian bridge in Dolores Park.

The guided tours, which are \$2 (or free with a Muni Fast Pass), leave the statue in the park every 45 minutes starting at 11 a.m., and take 90 minutes to complete. About 70 people can be accommodated on each tour.

Guides will lead their audiences to the mostly outdoor performances, staged by five different ensembles. The dance companies have been asked to choreograph works inspired by the look or history of particular sites along the J-line.

This year, the Epiphany dance group will be joined by the Deborah Slater Dance Theater, fusion company Deep Waters Dance Theater, improviser and choreographer Kathleen Hermesdorf, and the 50-year-old San Francisco Merionettes synchronized swimming club at Balboa Pool.

"Every year, I find this San Francisco historic gem, and the Merionettes is one

of them," says Epifano.

In years past, Trolley Dances has traveled the F, T, and N lines. The flow of the performances is helped by the guides, who talk about the history of the sites, Muni's train system, and the performers themselves during lulls between dances.

Because the performances are public, plenty of people not usually exposed to dance get to enjoy them, Epifano says.

"You get families to seniors and everybody in between."

Kids will enjoy their own set of tours on the Friday before the festival weekend. "They have a blast," she says.

Tours are on a first-come, first-served basis, and spots fill quickly, Epifano says. For wheelchair accessibility, please arrive for the 11 a.m. tour. The last tour leaves Dolores Park, at 19th and Church streets, at 2:45 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.epiphanydance.org](http://epiphanydance.org) or call 415-226-1139.

—Heather World

Bowser Bash at Upper Douglass Park

If your pooch is planning to dress up for Halloween this year, a chance to get extra mileage out of that costume comes in the form of the neighborhood's third annual Dogtoberfest celebration, taking place on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Upper Douglass Park.

Organized by the Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park, the free party for Noe Valley dogs and their two-legged friends will include contests for best costume, pet obedience, tricks, and agility.

Along with costumed canines and envy-inducing dog tricks performed by Noe Valley's finest on four legs, the event plays host to nonprofit organizations such as the San Francisco SPCA and the Animal Rescue Foundation, whose members will offer information about programs and services. Attendees will also find treats for both dogs and humans on sale at the event, as well as the services of a pet portrait photographer.

Dogtoberfest will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For the complete scoop, visit the Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park online at fuddp.org. The three-acre park is located at the corner of Douglass and 27th streets.

—Lorraine Sanders

Rhapsody Times Two

Lovers of classical music are in for a treat this month as two chamber music series kick off their seasons with renowned artists, intimate venues, and affordable prices.

It's the 17th season for the popular Noe Valley Chamber Music series, which opens Sunday, Oct. 25, with a concert by the Gold Coast Chamber Players, starring violinist Robin Sharp, concertmaster of the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra.

The group's 4 p.m. performance will feature *Two Rhapsodies for oboe, viola, and piano* by Charles Locffler; Frank Bridge's *Phantasy Quartet in F sharp for piano, violin, viola, and cello*; Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Phantasy Quintet for two violins, two violas, and cello*; and Arnold Bax's *Quintet for oboe and strings*.

The nonprofit Noe Valley Chamber Music launched the series in 1992 to both demystify the classical music experience and showcase established and new local artists. NVCN's Sunday afternoon concerts run monthly through May (except in January) and are held at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. The Nov. 8 performance will feature the Picasso String Quartet, performing works by Ravel, David Garner, and Mendelssohn.

Tickets range from \$15 for seniors and students to \$18 for general admission. For information about future concerts, call 415-648-5236 or visit www.nvcn.org.



It's not the Chattanooga Choo Choo but rather the J-Church that will be boarding audiences for the sixth annual San Francisco Trolley Dances held Oct. 16 and 17. Photo by Rob Kunkle

Cupcake Tasting for Couples

Cupcakes are the latest wedding craze, and Cooks Boulevard is inviting betrothed couples to taste creative confections from local bakers at "A Cupcake Affair" on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Bakers from That Takes the Cake, Sweetie Cups, Sugar Beats Sweets, Cups and Cake, Noe Valley Bakery, and Citizen Cake will bring varieties worthy of a wedding, topped with buttercream, ganache, and glaze.

"We want to help those looking for cupcakes find those who make cupcakes," says Sara Eddison, event coordinator and store manager.

The tasting will be at the store at 1309 Castro Street near 24th Street, and Eddison hopes couples will register there for kitchen wares, too. Though small, Cooks Boulevard offers the same online registry that chain stores do, Eddison says.

Interested lovebirds are asked to RSVP

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

Small Gems from Golden Gate

The group Golden Gate Artists will hold its 10th annual art show at the Noe Valley Ministry during the month of November.

The show, "Small Gems," will feature smaller works of art and will open with a free reception for the public on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be wine and cheese and other light refreshments, accompanied by cello music by Pawel Walerowski.

The original members of Golden Gate Artists first came together in 1996 in art classes at City College and Sharon Art Studio. "Inspired by one another's art, we met outside of class to draw and sketch each week 'en plein air' [outdoors]," says artist JoAnn Yates.

The group continues to meet every Monday in the Arboretum, the Presidio, Lake Merced, Fort Mason Garden, and other city spots, occasionally venturing to Marin, Sonoma, or Monterey.

Members share information on art exhibitions, materials, books, and lunch. "It is as much learning about painting as about life," says Yates. Newcomers are welcome to join. For information, e-mail joannlyates@gmail.com.

The Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd. Paintings will be displayed in the church sanctuary during open hours. Call 415-282-2317 for details.

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

to the store's website, www.cooksboulevard.com.

Meanwhile, Cooks Boulevard is continuing as a drop-off spot for San Francisco Food Bank donations and a pickup location for produce boxes from local farms. Customers can now choose from Frog Hollow, Tomatero Farms, Two Small Farms, and Eating with the Seasons, Edison reports.

To find out the details, call the store at 415-647-2665.

—Heather World

Behind the Doors of Local Artists

Noe Valley artist Lita Blanc hasn't achieved the notoriety of say, Albrecht Durer, the Renaissance engraver whose work figures prominently in Dan Brown's new novel *The Lost Symbol*. But Blanc's etchings will be on full display this month as part of the 34th annual San Francisco Open Studios. So will the paintings and sketchbooks of artist Marie Kelzer, who also lives in Noe Valley.

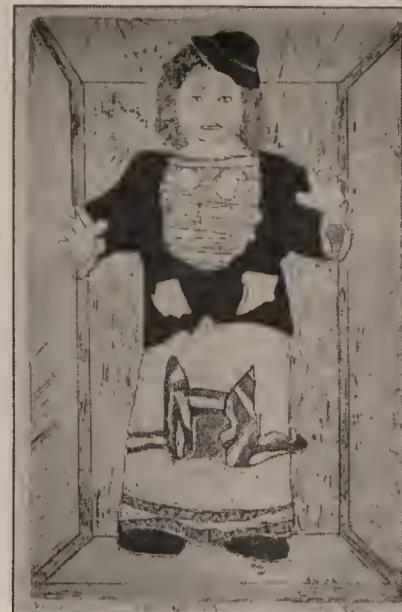
The two artists will join more than 50 painters, weavers, sculptors, and jewelry makers in the 94114 and 94131 zip codes who will open their homes, garages, and studios to the public during the weekend of Oct. 10-11. The weekend also will showcase talent in the Castro, Glen Park, Duboce Triangle, Bernal Heights, the Mission, and Portola neighborhoods.

The event kicks off four consecutive weekends of Open Studios, which is sponsored by the nonprofit ArtSpan and expected to attract 60,000 art lovers.

Blanc has taken part in previous Open Studios. A teacher at George Moscone Elementary School who got started in printmaking 10 years ago, Blanc will show two different series of works in her home studio at 4089 25th Street.

One group features aquatints engraved on zinc plates, whose designs are based on the games at Musée Mécanique at Fisherman's Wharf. Among the realistic portrayals of old-time fun machines is an etching of the zany "Laffing Sal."

"Musée Mécanique has been one of my favorite places in the city and one of the places my kids like," says Blanc, who's



Twenty-fifth Street artist Lita Blanc will display her etchings, including this one inspired by Musée Mécanique's "Laffing Sal," on Open Studios weekend Oct. 10-11.

lived in Noe Valley for 25 years. "They're haunted by Laffing Sal."

The second set includes colorful monoprints that depict scenes of Provence, France.

Blanc's works are considerably more affordable than Durer's. Her pieces range from \$15 to around \$200, she says.

Marie Kelzer invites you to see her 28th Street studio, which is chock full with a couple hundred paintings, book-bindings, and artist's books. Her New Age abstract paintings depict everything from "peace of mind" to "light in the age of darkness."

Kelzer, a seasoned artist of 25 years, says her works are priced from \$5 for small notebooks to \$400 for larger pieces. Her Marie Kelzer Design Studio is located at 238A 28th Street, and will be open both days 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information visit www.mariekelzerdesigns.com. And for a map of all Open Studios locations, go to www.artspan.org.

Art patrons will also have two opportunities this month to view the works of 24th Street artist Marc Ellen Hamel. Fourteen of her abstract oil paintings are on display through Oct. 25 in the back gallery at Nomad Rugs, 3775 24th Street near Church.

Nomad Rugs owner Chris Wahlgren says he was excited to offer the space. "I can't help to think how much Marc Ellen's work reminds me of some of the colorful Gabbeh rugs in the store."

The doors of Hamel's Hunters Point Shipyard studio will be open during Open

Studios' fourth weekend of Oct. 31-Nov. 1. That's where the full-time artist says she will display more than 20 pieces of her works, with prices ranging from \$250 for smaller canvases to \$3,000 or so for larger productions.

Her shipyard studio is located at Building 101, #2507. You can get more information at www.marcellenhamel.net.

—Corrie M. Anders

Rupa Fishing in Health Care

Many would likely agree with the notion that regular doses of live music are good for the soul, but what about your health? In the case of this month's *Catapulta!* performance at the Brava Theater, live music promises some very real health benefits indeed.

Created by Noe Valley resident, singer, and physician Rupa Marya, of Rupa & the April Fishes fame, the multimedia arts project brings original music, performance, photography, and sculpture to the stage to raise awareness about the human impact of U.S. anti-immigration policies and to highlight the health options available to documented and undocumented San Francisco residents.

Funded by a grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission, the event grew out of Rupa's ongoing work with undocumented populations in the Bay Area and those living along the U.S.-Mexico border. This spring, Rupa & the April Fishes band members Marcus Cohen (trumpet), Isabel Douglass (accordion), Aaron Kierbel (drums), and Safa Shokra (upright bass) traveled, along with photographer Lars Howlett, from Tijuana to Texas, documenting the lives they encountered and gathering research for this performance project.

The result is a one-hour showcase of new music by Rupa & the April Fishes and photographs of the band's journey, along with performances by Pan-American circus group Malamana, choreography by Sara Shelton Mann, and sculpture by Carlos Cartagena.

In keeping with its social mission, the event will give away 50 free tickets per night to undocumented people. The concert also will provide health outreach by offering an information table staffed by a physician and an immigration lawyer, ready to answer questions about access to health care in San Francisco.

Catapulta! takes place Oct. 9 and 10 at the Brava Theater, 2781 24th St. Tickets (\$15) are available at the Brava Theater Box Office (415-641-7657) and online at www.brownpapertickets.com.

—Lorraine Sanders

Perfect Halloween Reading

Considering that October is one of the scariest months of the year, author Doug Dorst seems like a wise addition to the lineup of writers at the Make-Out Room in the Mission District.

Dorst will read from his novel *Alive in Necropolis*, which the San Francisco Public Library has picked as its One City One Book selection for 2009. (Residents all over the city will be reading the book this month.)

The book features a young police officer living in nearby Colma, who struggles to keep the peace and maintain his sanity in a town where there are more corpses than sentient beings.

Four other hot writers will join Dorst for the Oct. 10 reading at the Make-Out Room, a bar-club at 3225 22nd Street near Bartlett Street. They include Anthony Swofford, author of *Jarhead*; Roz Savage, *Rowing the Atlantic*; Linda Watanabe McFerrin, *The Impossibility of Redemption Is Something We Hadn't Figured On*; and Joe Loya, *The Man Who Outgrew His Prison Cell*.

The organization Writers with Drinks is sponsoring the 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. event. Admission is \$3 to \$5 with all proceeds to benefit the nonprofit Center for Sex and Culture.

If Dorst's nocturnal reading leaves you gasping for more, you can join him on a free tour of Colma's Holy Cross Cemetery, 1500 Mission Blvd. The San Francisco History Association is sponsoring the tour, which starts at 11 a.m. You can get more information about these events at www.sfpl.org, www.writerswithdrinks.com, and www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

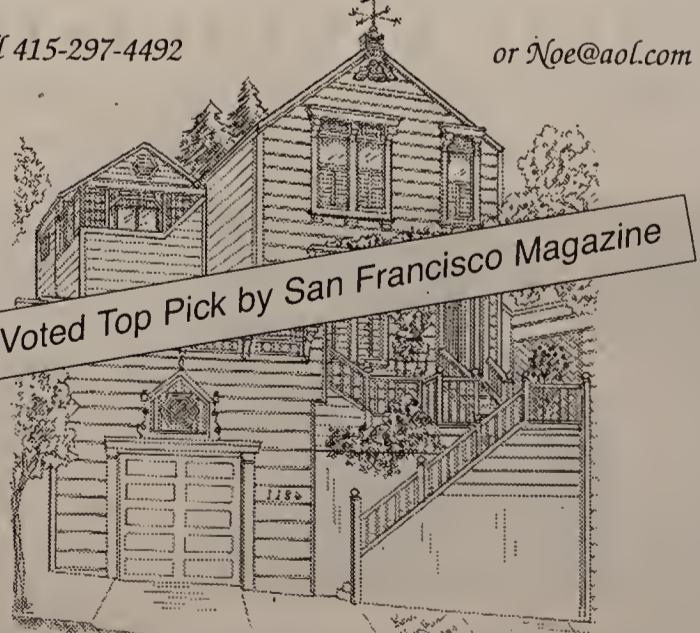
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Photos by Beverly Tharp



Once a Storefront. A home on 30th Street near Sanchez displays a partial view of elaborate paper sculptures.

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STORE TREK

By Lorraine Sanders

Store Trek is a Voice feature profiling new shops and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a beauty supply store that was among the first businesses to be tapped by Mayor Newsom's new micro-loan program, and a clothing boutique on Church Street which plans to present regular fashion shows.

BUBBLES AND SHAMPOO 3836 24th Street (at Vicksburg) 415-285-2303

A fresh-faced store called Bubbles and Shampoo popped up in July in MadKat Beauty Supply's former location next to the Dubliner Bar on 24th Street.

Painted a pale aquamarine both inside and out, the shop offers complete hair care lines from Redken, KMS, Joico, Rene Furterer, Pureology, Bed Head, Mop, and others, as well as skin care products by Murad, Mario Badescu, and Dermalogica.

There also are Paul Mitchell shampoos for kids and pets, OPI nail polish and nail care tools, Seda France candles, Terra Nova fragrances, waxing supplies, hair curlers, blow dryers, and soy-based Tash cosmetics by Bay Area makeup artist Tasha Delancy.

"I try to bring in things that are really good brands. Everything I bring in I believe in," says owner Claudia Ricarte, a 15-year veteran of the beauty industry.

The wide array of products is thanks in large measure to a \$25,000 micro-loan awarded to Ricarte by the San Francisco Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), a program announced in February as part of Mayor Gavin Newsom's economic stimulus plan for small businesses.

Ricarte was one of the first two recipients of loans under the program, which is administered by the nonprofit Working Solutions. Loan acceptance means that business owners must create at least one job for a moderate- to low-income person. Ricarte hopes to fill that job in the com-



Claudia Ricarte is often accompanied by her chihuahua-poodle mix Willy when tending her 24th Street beauty supply shop, Bubbles and Shampoo. Photos by Pamela Gerard

ing months with an employee who can perform hair or skin care services at the shop.

"What [the loan] helped me with was helping to buy more merchandise for the store. The more merchandise that you have, the more sales that you can do," says Ricarte.

Ricarte may be new to owning a business, but she's hardly new to the business of beauty—or to her 24th Street location. A licensed aesthetician, she lives above the shop and spent more than a decade working for MadKat (and its previous owner) before deciding to strike out on her own.

Once she secured the lease to the retail space, she replaced the store's glass shelves with kid-friendly wooden ones, reorganized the layout to be more inviting to shoppers, and revamped the shop's inventory. Prices are \$2 to \$20 for sundry items and top out at about \$80, for a few higher-end skin-care products.

One more thing you'll find in the store is not for sale: Willy, a chihuahua-poodle mix who's often lounging near Ricarte's computer. But ladies, you're in luck.

"He loves kids and women. He's a womanizer," Ricarte says.

Bubbles and Shampoo is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

LOFT 1513

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If Loft 1513 bears a striking resemblance to the recently closed Arara boutique that once sat on San Jose Avenue, your eyes do not deceive you. Located adjacent to Green Twig Salon in a former residential unit at 1513 Church Street, Loft 1513 is the latest from Arara co-owners and designers Larissa Verdussen and Andrea Lamadura, who joined forces with designer Jessica Summers-Miller to open the Noe Valley boutique in July.

"We three are designers, and we have about 15 to 20 other designers as well. We have a lot of local stuff and a lot of things from Brazil, Costa Rica, and limited small runs. It's nothing you could find at Macy's," says Summers-Miller, whose label iKohl is sold at the store.

While they share an appreciation for handcrafted and unique clothing that doubles as wearable art, each of the shop's three owners offers apparel with a different look and feel.

Summers-Miller's iKohl line ranges from versatile cotton tops made to flatter the body to one-of-a-kind draped pieces that stand out for their raw hems, pin tuck details, and mixture of fabrics and textures. She also has a small selection of clothing for toddlers, including versatile tube-shaped pieces that can be worn as a dress or a skirt.

Verdussen specializes in leather utility belts and whimsical, flowing clothes that reveal the former dancer's love of movement and theatrics. Lamadura's House of Mamasan mixes hip-hop and street-inspired influences with a feminine twist, while her second label, The Black Panther Party, includes T-shirts with images and memorabilia from the eponymous movement's heyday. Each of the designers is available for custom garment orders upon request.

In addition to wearables by the owners, the shop stocks clothing and accessories (\$25 to \$450) from an assortment of independent designers, including dresses of recycled silk by Audrey Acosta, leather bags by Tuckymama, fleece tops by Kayo Anime Clothing, men's button-down shirts by Callou Designs and Saaz Designs, Aiko jewelry, Sea Pony printed leg-



Fashion designers (left to right) Larissa Verdussen, Jessica Summers-Miller, and Andrea Lamadura have filled their Loft 1513 on Church Street with wearable art.

gings, House of Lore skirts and dresses, vintage re-creations by Kittinhawk, and T-shirts by Stoneybrook.

While the store carries many of the designers Arara once housed, the shop's larger size, high ceilings, wooden floors, and rectangular shape are much better suited for the fashion shows the owners plan to hold approximately every six weeks. A back office allows plenty of room for designers to ready their models for the events, while clothing racks on rope-and-pulley systems let the owners raise clothes high into the air to create more room for onlookers to take in the show.

Another benefit of the shop is its location. Along with increased foot traffic, Loft 1513's owners are enjoying the camaraderie of the surrounding merchants.

"We're all like, 'How do we help each other? How can we be a kind of Church Street community?' You can do that in this kind of neighborhood. We feel right at home," Summers-Miller says.

Loft 1513 is open for private shopping by appointment, and on Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

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Heading Out. A cooperative canine colony moves slowly down Sanchez Street in anticipation of the sights and scents of downtown Noe Valley.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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Day of the Dead

Remember Me. Figures of the season appear in the front display window of Global Exchange on 24th Street each October.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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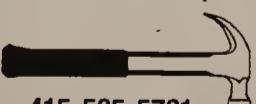
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Ready for Reading



Top: Matthew Purdon and Liz Sklar married September 5. The Jersey Street residents love Noe Valley and the Farmer's Market in particular. The Sribbledoodles section of Just for Fun printed all their wedding graphics and invitations with a Farmer's Market theme. In the above photo, Matthew and Liz hold up another of their Noe Valley favorites while on their honeymoon in French Polynesia.

Opposite page: Stephen and Tiana Altman read the Noe Valley Voice outside Buckingham Palace, London whilst waiting for an audience with the Queen. Luckily, the Rumors column was long that issue, as they're still waiting.

Below: Chris Sequeira of Living Tai Chi in Noe Valley took his favorite read to Moab, Utah and Arches National Park.



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SCHOOL REPORT

This month's report on local public schools comes from Alvarado Elementary School on Douglass Street.

Alvarado Parents Know How to Mingle

By Heather World

Parents of students at Alvarado Elementary on Douglass Street sure know how to make connections. Over the past year, they have partnered with half a dozen companies, which have donated not only cash and equipment but also the sweat equity of their employees.

Some of the businesses are small. Last December, Joanne Kapsack approached the newly opened Just Awesome! board game store on Diamond Street. Awesome co-owner Erik Mantsch set up a hugely successful after-school game club on campus, and this year he's adding a second club. He also donated 7 percent of one week's sales and will do so again this year, starting Dec. 6.

Other companies are big. Steve May's employer, Salesforce.com software systems, donated a database for the school's auction, worth about \$15,000 a year. Then, over the summer, May suggested an edible garden for Alvarado. Nine employees spent a sunny Tuesday clearing out flowerbeds, spreading soil and bark, and erecting an entry gate under the direction of garden stewards Mara Sieling and Victor Lubet.

"I think everybody felt satisfied in being able to contribute to a local public elementary school," May said, though the work was physically demanding. "One woman said she isn't going to quit her day job anytime soon!"

Similarly, last year, Zorana Bosnic's proposal to replace playground asphalt with a sustainable garden caught the attention of HOK, the eco-minded architecture firm where she works. Employees helped students and school staff build the "secret garden," rolling in a 1,300-gallon rainwater storage cistern, planting containers, and setting up seats to make the space an outdoor classroom. The company paid \$10,000 for the project.

Cynthia Wainwright and Ramona Harvey both work for Levi Strauss & Co. and knew the company asks employees to do community work around May 1 (think 501 jeans). Through HandsOn Bay Area, a volunteer partnering organization, 30

Levi volunteers painted walls, hallways, benches, and the teachers' lounge. They also organized books in Alvarado's library.

In addition, the company generously donated \$5,000 for school improvements. Some of the money paid for new stage curtains, and Alvarado's Sampedro family, which runs an upholstery business, sewed up the donated dark denim material provided by Levi's.

Up in the computer lab, Donna Boyer figured she could upgrade the school's outdated monitors by hitting up successful Silicon Valley companies. No such luck. So Boyer picked up the phone and called Green Citizen, a local company that recycles electronics.

Green Citizen takes pains to protect communities affected by recycling waste, and Boyer found it equally interested in helping locally. Sometimes the company receives computers and other equipment that can still be used. After Boyer's call, Green Citizen took 28 cast-off flat-screen monitors, refurbished them, and delivered them to Alvarado.

"The monitors are in top shape, and are 100 percent better than what they replaced," says Tim Smith, chairman of Alvarado's Technology Committee. He said Green Citizen even hauled away the old monitors for safe recycling.

Smith and the other parents know these kinds of partnerships are invaluable, es-

pecially in the face of declining state funds. They hope more people—either individuals or businesses—will see volunteering as a great way to connect with their local public school.

To volunteer time, money, or ideas to the city's schools, visit San Francisco School Volunteers at www.sfedfund.org, or contact the school of your choice.



SCHOOL CONTACTS

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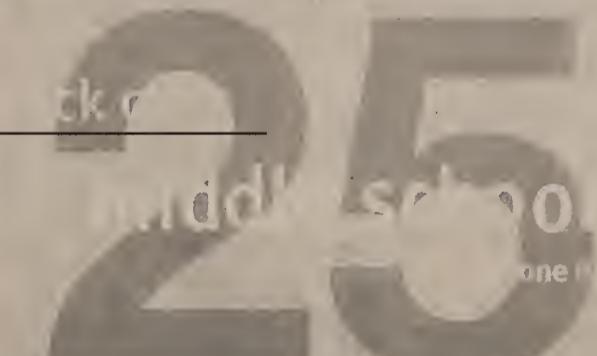
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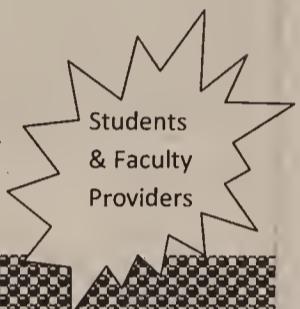
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Feeling Chirpy: Glen Potter retired recently after operating Accent on Flowers for 36 years on 24th Street. But it seems Sidney, Glen's parrot, did not. The bird was feeling a little mopey at home, Glen says, so Sidney returned to the shop, at least temporarily. There, he's happy and talkative, Glen reports. Do you think Sidney missed his Noe Valley friends? Photo by Pamela Gerard



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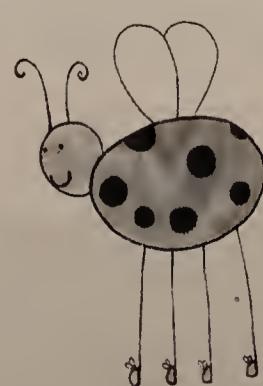
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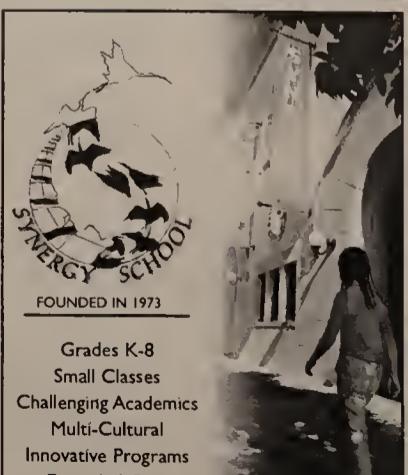


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Tales with Taste

You can learn how to make gingerbread men, women, or babies by picking up a book from this month's list, provided by retiring Noe Valley Librarian Carol Small and *Voice* speed-reader Karol Barske. Their selections are but a fraction of the books available at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street (near Castro). The branch is open six days a week; see hours below. When the doors are closed, you can log on to www.spl.org and sign up for your favorites. For information, call Branch Manager Alice McCloud at 415-355-5707.

Children's Fiction

- The 26 letters each have one thing to do before they say goodnight in Judy Sierra's read-aloud book *Sleepy Little Alphabet*. Ages 2 to 4.
- Gingerbread Baby goes to the village to look for a friend, but finds them back at home, in *Gingerbread Friends* by Jan Brett; recipes included. Ages 3 to 5.
- Mr. Bungles races to be on time to teach school, but everything goes wrong, in *Late for School!* by Stephanie Calmenson. Ages 4 to 6.
- Judy Goldman's *Uncle Monarch and the Day of the Dead* tells the story of the Mexican holiday celebrated Nov. 1 and 2. Ages 6 to 8.
- Abigail ("the Great One"), Jacob ("the Pain"), and Fluzzy the Cat reappear in Judy Blume's latest chapter book, *Friend or Fiend?* Ages 6 to 8.
- The Bill Martin Jr. Big Book of Poetry*, edited by Bill Martin Jr., includes almost 200 poems, by authors from Robert Louis Stevenson to John Ciardi. All ages.

Children's Nonfiction

- Andrew Chaikin's *Mission Control, This Is Apollo* tells the story of the first voyages to the moon. Ages 8 and up.

Books selected by Children's Librarian Carol Small

LIBRARY EVENTS

How to Photograph Your Children

Noe Valley professional photographer Fima Gelman will teach parents how to capture special moments with their cameras, on Tuesday, Oct. 13; 7 to 8 p.m. Gelman, an award-winning photographer, will also present a slide show featuring photos of orphans taken during a trip to Siberia.

Book Discussion Group

Attend the *Noe Valley Book Discussion Group* on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 to 8:45 p.m.

Stories and Rhymes for Little Ones

Babies and toddlers to age 3 will love the songs and rhymes at *Toddler Tales*, held Tuesdays Oct. 6, 13, 20, and 27, from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. *Family Story Time*, for children to age 5, follows a half an hour later, from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Call 355-5707 to confirm.

Annotations by Karol Barske, of the *Voice* staff

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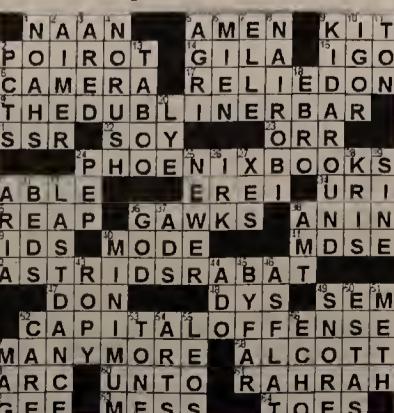
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10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the same class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the November 2009 issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of November.

The deadline for Class Ads is Oct. 15. Note: The issue will be displayed for one month on our website: www.noevallyvoice.com.

Advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of their ad (not to exceed one line) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. Thank you for your support.

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This exhibition has been organized by The Rosenbach Museum & Library, Philadelphia, and was made possible thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services, as well as the Greater Philadelphia Tourism & Marketing Corporation. The national tour is presented by HarperCollins Children's Books. The San Francisco presentation has been made possible by lead support from the Koret and Taube Foundations, with additional support from the Louise and Claude Rosenberg Jr. Family Foundation and the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund. Youth 18 and under is sponsored by the Alexander M. and June L. Marin Foundation. Image Credit: Maurice Sendak Detail from final drawing for *Where the Wild Things Are*. Pen and ink, watercolor © Maurice Sendak 1963 All rights reserved.

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This Land Is Your Land: Folksinger Pete Seeger and friend Carmen Mendieta spent a relaxing afternoon in Noe Valley on Sept. 17. After stopping by Noe Valley Music and Savor Restaurant, they visited Phoenix Books, where they found enthusiastic company and fascinating literature.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

"The best kept secret in San Francisco is right here in Noe Valley"

Pasta Gina

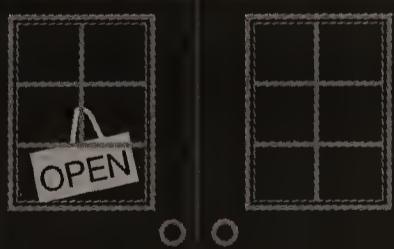
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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Back to the Future
Again

By Mazaok

STAR MAGIC: THE SECOND GENERATION is what longtime Noe Valley resident Robert Hanfling is calling the space he has rented from Elisa Ining in front of her venerable Health Spa at 4028 24th Street. (The previous tenant was Simply Chic.)

Hanfling, aka "Quicksilver," opened a store called Star Magic (with then-business partner Justin Moreau) at that location in 1979. The pair originally launched the shop under the name Gifts of the Magi in the storefront on the corner of 24th and Noe where Starbucks currently pours.

As neighborhood oldtimers will remember, Star Magic became a true "star" in Downtown Noe Valley. It was a place where amateur astrologers and astronomers, those into astral arts and celestial charts, could mix and mingle while staring into beautiful stones, crystal objects, stained glass, mobiles, toys, and statuary; listening to spacy New Age music while "wow"-ing at the light show on the ceiling and peering into elaborate display cases (which were manufactured by Hanfling's other business, Magic Glass, and distributed worldwide).

In 1982, Star Magic opened another store on Broadway in New York City, which also became an instant success. By 1988, Hanfling and Moreau sold their interest in the business to a New York in-

vestor who took over control. Over the next nine years, the "magic" was replaced by "schlock," and the Noe Valley business finally closed in February 1998, with the New York owner being evicted. You can go online to the March 1998 *Noe Valley Voice*, where reporter Denise Minor tells the sad story under the headline: "Star Magic Now a Black Hole." (FYI, Quicksilver nee Hanfling is and has been, since 2001, producer of San Francisco's New Living Expo as well as the Whole Life Expo in Los Angeles.)

Hanfling ("I prefer to be called Quicksilver") says he and his son Michael are the ones partnering up now, to rekindle the Magic one more time.

"My son and I have rented the space from Elisa for the last three months of the year to create a second generation of our Star Magic gift shop for the 2009 holiday season, and hopefully word will get out and the neighborhood will support this project," says Quicksilver. "Our inventory [will] include more contemporary items relating to ecology and have more natural clothing and a good mix of gift items," he says.

Michael, aka "Three Satza," will be managing the store's daily operations, and Quicksilver says the doors should be open by the middle of October. As for beyond Dec. 31, 2009, "We will see how it goes, and as a gift of our own, we will be giving a 10 percent discount to neighborhood residents who can show us a 94114 or 94131 zip code on their driver's license or ID card."

The store may have a good chance of succeeding on our commercial strip. Yes, it's still Very Noe Valley (VNV).



A VNV HOLIDAY SEASON officially starts on Oct. 24 with the neighborhood Harvest Festival and Street Faire on 24th Street between Church and Sanchez

streets. It's sponsored by the Noe Valley Association (NVA), the Friends of Noe Valley (FNV), and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA). The NVA and NVMPA have invested in some new holiday lighting.

The NVMPA will also be sponsoring the hayride during the festival. The horse-driven wagon will leave Walgreen's starting at 11 a.m. and clip-clop down to Sanchez.

NVMPA "pro-tem" president and NVA chairman Robert T. Roddick has also confirmed that the two associations have obtained the permits and insurance to offer a Harvest Festival bonus: an outdoor screening of *Lost in the Fog* at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, in the "Harry Aleo Parking Lot" (the city parking lot on 24th Street just below Castro).

As anyone reading this column knows, *Lost in the Fog* was a world-class racehorse owned by an eccentric Noe Valley realtor, Harry Aleo, whose Twin Peaks Properties (across the street from the parking lot) was in business for over 60 years, until Aleo died last year.

Aleo gained national attention for his political window displays, which were and still are a Downtown Noe Valley window-shopper-stopper. Way back in 1959, about 20 merchants banded together and bought the vacant lot (actually, it was the site of a public meeting place which had been demolished) and gifted it to the city. It got turned into a parking lot to help the stores along our commercial strip. Now, thanks to the NVA, it has a mini-park and bulletin board, too.

The movie, by the way, was produced by Noe Valley filmmaker John Corey, who was born and raised here. He heard about the famous sprinter, introduced himself to the owner, and decided to tell the story of Harry and his horse. For those who have not seen the documentary, do mark your calendars and bring some pop-

corn, a blanket, and for greater comfort, maybe even a collapsible chair.



THE HARRY ALEO STORY also appeared on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal's* weekend edition for Sept. 19. In a story headlined, "In Left-Leaning San Francisco, There Was Something About Harry," writer Conor Dougherty describes Aleo as "a conservative gadfly known for sparring with his liberal neighbors," and quotes one of Harry's most quoted aphorisms, describing his office as "an island of traditional conservative values in a sea of latte-sipping liberal loonies."

The WSJ story focused on the current efforts of Downtown Noe Valley Realtor Joel Panzer to preserve and archive Aleo's personal effects so they might someday be exhibited in a museum. It looks like the probate case involving Aleo's estate will be finalized sometime around the end of the year. All this personal property and the four buildings owned by Aleo, including his office and adjacent stores (and the private parking lot in the rear of those stores), will be placed in a trust for the benefit of his three children. The trustee is longtime friend Anthony Lyau, who you might remember was the manager of the Noe Valley branch of the Bank of America. Lyau retired from the bank in March of 2005.

According to Panzer and Lyau, they are working to get Aleo's memorabilia added to the Noe Valley Archives. Panzer says he has talked with the curator of the Archives, Bill Yenne, who has been storing papers and artifacts accumulated by neighborhood historian Paul Kantus. (Kantus, who died last November, was the chief organizer of the Noe Valley History Day event held annually at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library.)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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OIL CHANGE

RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

When pressed on the WSJ story, Panzica said he realized it might be difficult to find a space in Noe Valley for an Aleo museum. Lyau says by next spring Harry's office will be cleared and put on the market for lease.

Hey, how about renting it to someone who could call the business "Harry's Place" and leave all of Aleo's banners and clippings in the front window?

Or better yet, how about building some water- and vandal-proof display cases on the walls of the parking lot/mini-park and call it Harry Aleo Plaza?

The WSJ writer Dougherty, by the way, was born and raised right here in 94114, and knew of Harry in the olden days.



WHOLE DAY WHOLE FOODS: The bread-breaking ceremony at the grand opening (9:45 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 30) of Whole Foods was also très Valley-Noe. It was attended by well over 100 friends and neighbors, the press, a score of police officers backing up our 24th Street beat officer Lorraine Lombardo, who stationed herself at the front of the parking lot on her bicycle, and a gaggle of Whole Foods personnel ready to deal with the traffic problems that would be created by the onslaught of 94114/94131 locals who had been anxiously waiting to shop at the store.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* heralded the event in Andrew Ross' column on that morning's page 1 of the Business section. Ross also reported, "There have been calls by 'Boycott Whole Foods' supporters on Facebook 'to raise a ruckus [at the opening].'" He suggested that the protest might be similar to the "rakes" that was reportedly created by a group in Oakland at a store opening last week. Ross, who lives in 94131—Glen Park now, and used to live in Upper Noe Valley—was there for what appeared would be a demonstration.

Even the *Noe Valley Voice* had two reporters and a photographer at the event when we learned from our Google Alert that a group called "San Francisco Citizen" was encouraging members and friends to go to the ceremony and protest Whole Foods CEO John Mackey's very public statements about his very conservative approach to health care reform. There were no rakes and no demonstrations. About five protesters did appear on the sidewalk in front of the store, and they peacefully handed out information about the single-payer plan.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who was instrumental in coordinating city permits to facilitate reopening the market, spoke very briefly and invited everyone to follow him into the store.

On his way in, Dufty handed Joe Rogoff, who is in charge of Whole Foods Northern California, a letter addressed to John Mackey, welcoming Whole Foods to Noe Valley and expressing appreciation of their commitment to San Francisco. However, writes Bevan, "I am concerned that today's celebration has been affected by national issues related to health care and the Employee Free Choice Act legislation pending in Congress." Dufty enclosed the Kaiser Family Foundation report on Healthy San Francisco, and asked Mackey "to reconsider his views."

Of course, 24th Street was jammed that whole day as seemingly thousands of people showed up to shop—or at least survey—the new store.



SHORT SHIFTS: Updating the updates on the opening of Noeteca Café and Wine Bar on Dolores and Valley: yes, it finally got the final-final from city inspectors, and the doors opened on the second day of October, after a six-month permit delay, despite the help of Bevan Dufty....

There are no takers yet for renting the Riki space or the space vacated by GNC on 24th Street, and the real estate agents for those spaces indicate that the only non-food inquiries are coming from people who want to open a yoga studio, exercise gym, or nail salon....

Over at the Streetlight Records building, which is for sale, the broker for the owner says he is getting many inquiries from those who want to open a restaurant or some type of food service business....

Meanwhile, Chris Matthews, manager of Old Republic Title Company, said he was very pleased that he opened the doors for business on Sept. 28, and called it a good move for his office, which used to be located in the Upper Market neighborhood.

We learned at the end of the month that Noe Valley's candidate for "worst man of the year," TV reality show *Wife Swap* bad boy Stephen Fowler and his wife were moving out of the neighborhood and put their 25th Street Victorian house on the market for \$2.8 million. Conversely, the Twitter CEO was putting his SOMA loft on the market for just under \$1.5 million and moving to a Noe Valley Victorian.

La Boulange is set to open its new location at 24th and Sanchez sometime around the middle of November, according to co-owner Thomas Lefort, with open hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m....

Mi Lindo Yucatan restaurant (which got good reviews from critics and pa-

tron) closed unceremoniously on the last day of September, having been on a month-to-month tenancy and given notice to vacate....

The blogs reported that workers allegedly in Real Food's to prepare for a re-opening were in fact there only to replace some broken windows and ugly writings on the storefront. They were gone within two days....

A dance studio looks to be opening in the space vacated by Andiamo on corner of Diamond and Elizabeth streets.... And yes, that was folksinging icon Pete Seeger and friend Carmen Mendieta spending a relaxing Indian summer afternoon at Savor, then paying a visit to Noe Valley Music, and finally browsing and chatting with the staff at Phoenix Books and Records.

Finally, it was quite awesome how quickly Just Awesome Games moved out of its Diamond Street store after co-owner Erik Mantsch sent the *Voice* a message on Sept. 30, announcing that the board game store "will be moving during the month of October," because "fate has extended us the opportunity to grow and relocate the store to a different location, and with our current situation this is something we can't pass up."

When contacted later that day at the store on Diamond, where business seemed to be normal, Mantsch said he was not able to say exactly when or where the store would move, but hoped he could stay in Noe Valley. The next day, Oct. 1, the store was empty, with only a note on the door telling people where to inquire about their gift certificates.



SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT COMING: The calm in Downtown Noe Valley was shattered a minute after two o'clock in the afternoon of Sept. 11. Witnesses report that

a Jeep pulled up in front of Nina's Fortune Telling salon, which opened last month on 24th Street near Noe, and two women got out of the vehicle, rushed into Nina's salon, and started slapping her face and screaming. Somebody phoned 911 and a police car came upon the scene about a minute later. The officers broke up the fight, detained and cited the two perpetrators, and sent Nina to San Francisco General Hospital. She returned to the shop about three hours later, seemingly all right.

According to police reports, Nina Stevens told them there was an ongoing family feud over two separate psychic shops owned by the family. Evidently, the two women charged in the assault have a psychic shop down near 24th and Mission, and they were upset that Nina opened her shop so close to their shop. A hearing on the criminal charges has been continued to November.

It appears that Nina's family also filed, four days later, a petition against the two women for civil restraining orders in Superior Court to stop the "harassment," and they have obtained a temporary restraining order pending the November hearing.

According to San Francisco Police Inspector Gregory Ovanessian, who happens to be a nationally recognized expert in the psychic businesses field, there is an unwritten rule that psychics will not compete with other psychics within a three-block radius. In San Francisco, says Ovanessian, all psychics must be registered with the Police Department and only then can they give readings, obtain a business license for the location, and post their fees on the wall.



THAT'S 30 for this month, folks. See you all at the Harvest Festival or at the horse movie. Ciao for now. ■

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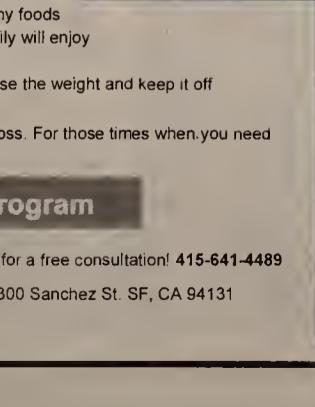
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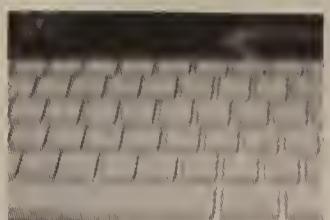
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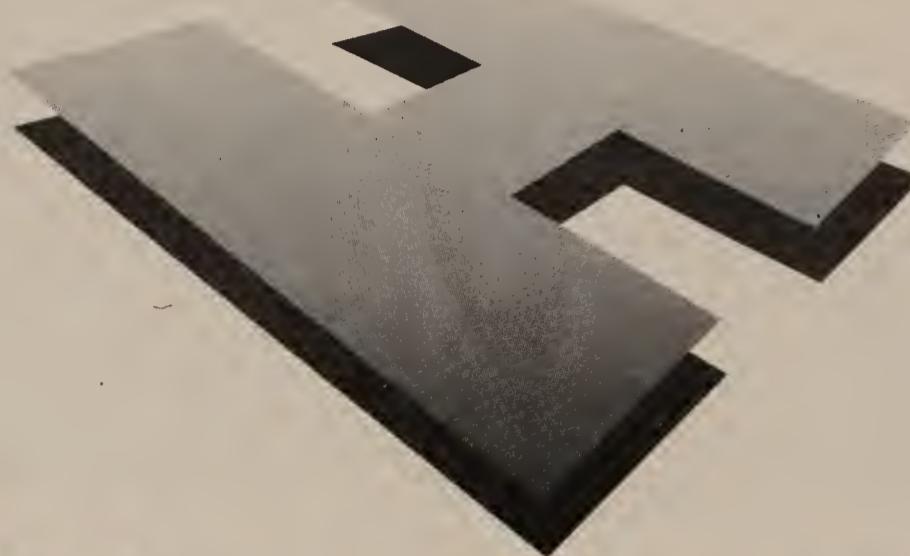
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 Meetings: Call or email for information.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Email: dhic123@gmail.com
 Website: www.doloresheights.org
 Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly, membership semi-annually.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Scott Wiener, President, 437-9414
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St. (upstairs)
 Website: www.evpa.org

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
 Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
 Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is held the day before Mother's Day.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association

Contact: Gregg Brooks
 Email: sflyric@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Email for details.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774
 Email: emerr@earthlink.net
 Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings: Email for information.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
 Email: lauranor@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
 Email: rambooks@pacbell.net
 Website: www.friendsofnoealley.com
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146

Meetings: First or second Thursday (call or email to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contact: Alexandra Torre
 Email: noe_park@atorre.com
 Website: www.novalleyreccenter.com
 Meetings: Email or check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
 Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310
 Email: kendall@mircocounsel.com
 Meetings: Monthly, e-mail for details.
 Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a screenwriting course.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: noestrolls@aol.com
 Weekly Stroll: Thursday at 11 a.m., departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St. For details, visit www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
 Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
 Meetings: Third Wednesday, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m.
 Parking available in lot off Elizabeth.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez. Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332

Mailing Address: 4101 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Second Thursday, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com, Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
 Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Robert T. Rodick, 641-8687
 Email: info@noevalleymerchants.com
 Meetings: Last Wednesday, Bank of America, 4098 24th St., 9 a.m.
 Mixers: See www.noevalleymerchants.com.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
 Contact: Mina Kervin
 Email: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536
 Email: mfasulis@yahoo.com
 Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
 Email: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
 Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
 Meetings: See website.

See Jane Run Running Programs

Contacts: Shauna Nyborg, 415-401-8338; Deb DeFanti, 415-839-9393
 Email: events@seejanerun.com
 Address: 3910 24th St. (at Sanchez)
 Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com/t-Training.aspx>

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
 Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
 Email: lori@tail-wagging.com
 Website: www.tail-wagging.com
 Meetings: Email for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
 Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Third or fourth Thursday (call to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.



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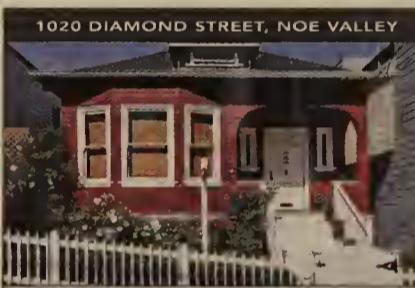


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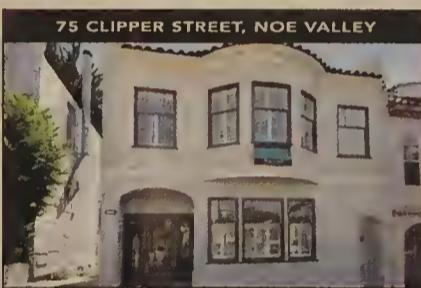


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New Tiles for Spires at St. Paul's

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

safety hazard. Heavy strong winds that shoot off Diamond Heights can be fierce at times, and we don't want anyone to get hurt."

The two asymmetrical icons atop the English-Gothic church can be seen throughout Noe Valley. The steeple on the north side of the church rises some 200 feet into the air. The south tower is slightly shorter. Each is topped with a cross.

Scaffolding has been placed around the exterior of the church, both to protect passersby and to aid workers. Lawson Roofing Inc. was the low bidder on the \$600,000 project, which calls for removal and replacement of all of the tiles.

Farana says the church, which has about 1,300 families on its membership rolls, will remain open while the repair work is being performed.

"The project should be finished, God willing, by Christmas," he said.

Construction of the church was started in 1897 and was completed in 1911. The spires—embellished with slate tiles imported from a quarry in Vermont—are among the building's most prominent features.

The church last underwent renovation nearly a decade ago in the wake of a San Francisco city ordinance that required seismic upgrading for many unreinforced masonry buildings. As part of the retrofit, the roof and attic were strengthened with more than 50 tons of new steel.

That seismic work started in January 2000 and shut down St. Paul's for one year. The church reopened in December 2000—in time for parishioners to celebrate Christmas mass.

Next month, St. Paul's will hold an auction/dinner-dance as part of ongoing fundraising efforts to help finance church repairs. Auction items include a seven-day Hawaiian vacation for four people and two footballs that former San Francisco 49er stars Joe Montana and Jerry Rice have signed.

"We'd like all of our neighbors to come," said Katy O'Shea, director of the church's capital campaign. O'Shea said she expected more than 200 people to attend the \$65 dinner-dance, set for Nov. 14 at Patio Espanol restaurant, 2850 Alemany Blvd.

The fundraiser runs from 6 to 11:30 p.m. For more information, contact O'Shea at 415-648-7538 or visit the church website at www.stpaulsf.org. ■



Into Thin Air

In early September, Voice photographer Najib Joe Hakim captured a crew of workers from Nor-Cal Scaffolding, Inc., erecting ever-higher platforms until they reached the cross atop the south spire of St. Paul's Church at Church and Valley streets. Their remarkable ascent was part of a \$600,000 project to replace worn tiles on the building's twin steeples. (See story, starting page 1.)

Photos by Najib Joe Hakim

